

8. Connections With Others



Alpine Ararat Ballarat Banyule Bass Coast Baw Baw Bayside Benalla Boroondara Brimbank Buloke Campaspe Cardinia Casey Central Goldfields Colac-Otway Corangamite Darebin East Gippsland Frankston Gannawarra Glen Eira Glenelg Golden Plains Greater Bendigo Greater Dandenong Greater Geelong Greater Shepparton Hepburn Hindmarsh Hobsons Bay Horsham Hume Indigo Kingston Knox Latrobe Loddon Macedon Ranges Manningham Mansfield Maribyrnong Maroondah Melbourne Melton Mildura Mitchell Moira Monash Moonee Valley Moorabool Moreland Mornington Peninsula Mount Alexander Moyne Murrindindi Nillumbik Northern Grampians Port Phillip Pyrenees Queenscliffe South Gippsland Southern Grampians Stonnington Strathbogie Surf Coast Swan Hill Towong Wangaratta Warrnambool Wellington West Wimmera Whitehorse Whittlesea Wodonga Wyndham Yarra Yarra Ranges Yarriambiack Alpine Ararat Ballarat Banyule Bass Coast Baw Baw Bayside Benalla Boroondara Brimbank Buloke Campaspe Cardinia Casey Central Goldfields Colac-Otway Corangamite Darebin East Gippsland Frankston Gannawarra Glen Eira Glenelg Golden Plains Greater Bendigo Greater Dandenong Greater Geelong Greater Shepparton Hepburn Hindmarsh Hobsons Bay Horsham Hume Indigo Kingston Knox Latrobe Loddon Macedon Ranges Manningham Mansfield Maribyrnong Maroondah Melbourne Melton Mildura Mitchell Moira Monash Moonee Valley Moorabool Moreland Mornington Peninsula Mount Alexander Moyne Murrindindi Nillumbik Northern Grampians Port Phillip Pyrenees Queenscliffe South Gippsland Southern Grampians Stonnington Strathbogie Surf Coast Swan Hill Towong Wangaratta Warrnambool Wellington West Wimmera Whitehorse Whittlesea Wodonga Wyndham Yarra Yarra Ranges Yarriambiack Alpine Ararat Ballarat Banyule Bass Coast Baw Baw Bayside Benalla Boroondara Brimbank Buloke Campaspe Cardinia Casey Central Goldfields Colac-Otway Corangamite Darebin East Gippsland Frankston Gannawarra Glen Eira Glenelg Golden Plains Greater Bendigo Greater Dandenong Greater Geelong Greater Shepparton Hepburn Hindmarsh Hobsons Bay Horsham Hume Indigo Kingston Knox Latrobe Loddon Macedon Ranges Manningham Mansfield Maribyrnong Maroondah Melbourne Melton Mildura Mitchell Moira Monash Moonee Valley Moorabool Moreland Mornington Peninsula Mount Alexander Moyne Murrindindi Nillumbik Northern Grampians Port Phillip Pyrenees Queenscliffe South Gippsland Southern Grampians Stonnington Strathbogie Surf Coast Swan Hill Towong Wangaratta Warrnambool Wellington West Wimmera Whitehorse Whittlesea Wodonga Wyndham Yarra Yarra Ranges Yarriambiack Alpine Ararat Ballarat Banyule Bass Coast Baw Baw Bayside Benalla Boroondara Brimbank Buloke Campaspe Cardinia Casey Central Goldfields Colac-Otway Corangamite Darebin East Gippsland Frankston Gannawarra Glen Eira Glenelg Golden Plains Greater Bendigo Greater Dandenong Greater Geelong Greater Shepparton Hepburn Hindmarsh Hobsons Bay Horsham Hume Indigo Kingston Knox Latrobe Loddon Macedon Ranges Manningham Mansfield Maribyrnong Maroondah Melbourne Melton Mildura Mitchell Moira

8. Connections with others

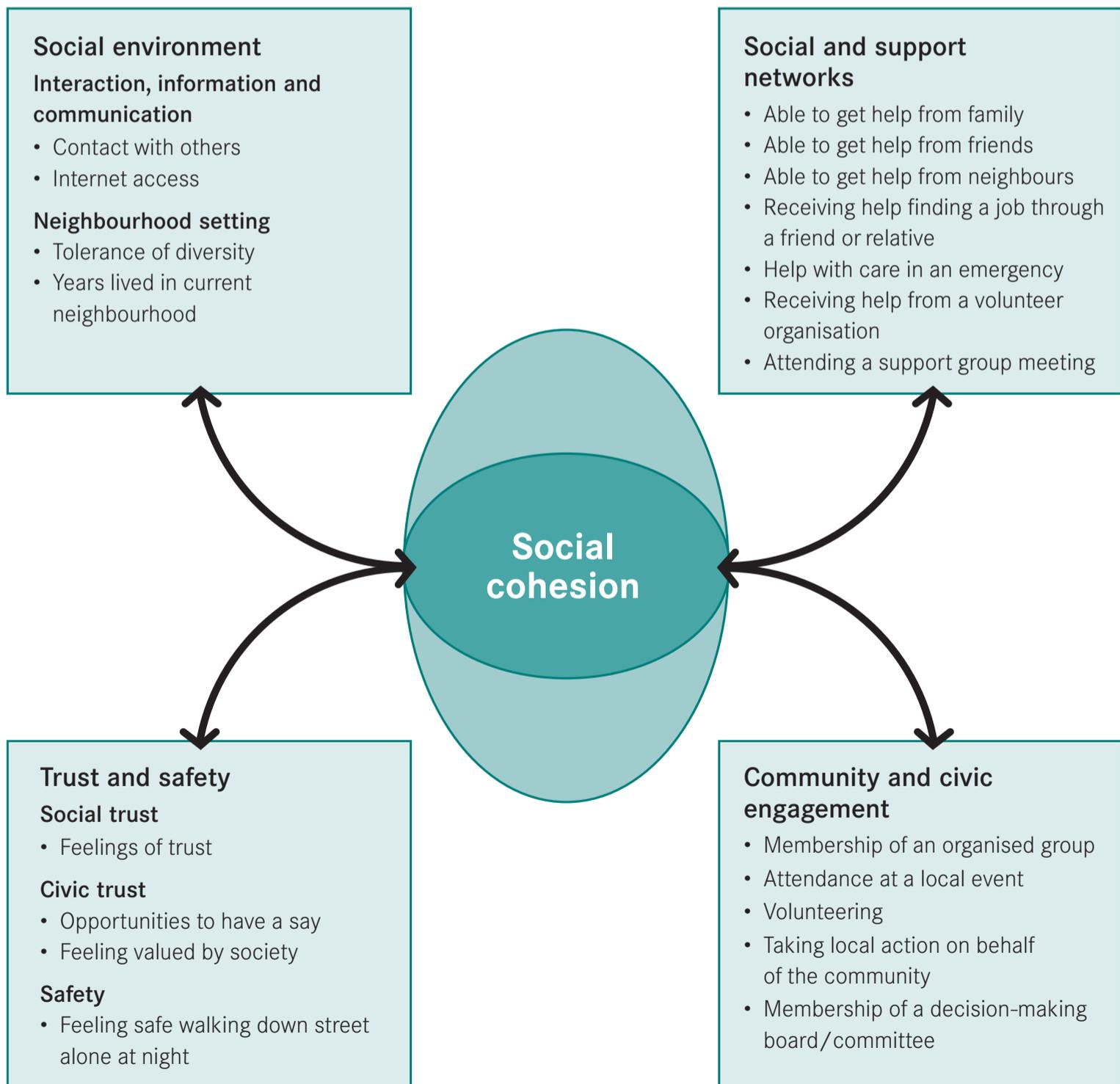
The Victorian Population Health Survey includes questions on social support and community connections and participation. The makeup of questions has evolved since the first survey in 2001, but a core set of questions on social and community characteristics has been retained and is reported annually. Many of the indicators in this chapter of the report also appear in *Indicators of Community Strength at the Local Government Area Level in Victoria 2008* (DPCD 2010).

The 2008 survey continued to collect information on informal social contacts (family, friends and neighbours) and membership or involvement with broader organisations such as sporting clubs, professional associations and community groups. It also collected data on other indicators of social cohesion. This section describes survey findings under headings that describe some key enabling and reinforcing factors for social cohesion.

Social cohesion

Social health—defined as the ability to develop, maintain and nurture major social relationships—is an important dimension of health. It is defined at the level of the individual; at a societal level, the corresponding concept is social cohesion, which focuses on interrelatedness and unity among individuals, groups and associations within society. Unity is established and maintained through social relationships based on trust, shared values, feelings of inclusion and belonging, and expectations of reciprocity. The 2008 survey data on social and community characteristics are organised under the umbrella of social cohesion.

Figure 8.1: Selected indicators of social cohesion



Survey results

Interaction, information and communication

• Contact with others

- In 2008, a small percentage of Victorians (2.4 per cent) aged 18 years and over reported they had not spoken to anyone the previous day.
- Persons in older age groups, particularly older females, spoke with fewer persons on the previous day than did those in younger age groups. More than a third of persons (34.0 per cent) aged 65 years and over had spoken with 10 or more people the previous day, compared with six in 10 (60.1 per cent) persons aged 18–24 years.
- A higher proportion of persons living in the metropolitan area than in rural areas had not spoken to anyone the previous day (2.6 per cent and 1.7 per cent respectively).

• Internet access

- In 2008, more than eight in 10 persons (81.3 per cent) aged 18 years and over reported their household had internet access.
- Lack of household access to the internet was concentrated disproportionately among those aged 65 years and over.
- A higher proportion of females in older age groups reported their household did not have access to the internet, compared with males in older age groups.
- A higher proportion of persons in rural areas did not have access to the internet, compared with those in the metropolitan area (20.5 per cent and 16.7 per cent respectively).

Neighbourhood setting

• Years lived in current neighbourhood

- In 2008, more than half (50.9 per cent) of the Victorian population aged 18 years and over had been resident in their neighbourhood or local area for 10 years or more.
- The proportion of persons who had lived in their current neighbourhood for 10 years or more increased with increasing age (except for persons aged 18–24 years), rising from one in five (20.1 per cent) of those aged 25–34 years to almost four in five (78.5 per cent) of those aged 65 years and over.
- A higher proportion of persons from the metropolitan area (51.6 per cent) had lived in their neighbourhood for 10 years or more, compared with those from rural areas (49.1 per cent).

• Tolerance of diversity

- In 2008, more than half (52.2 per cent) of persons thought multiculturalism definitely made life in their area better, and a further 24.0 per cent thought it sometimes made life in their area better.
- In most age groups (except those aged 65 years and over), males and females were equally likely to think multiculturalism definitely made life in their area better.
- Persons living in the metropolitan area (55.1 per cent) were more likely than those in rural areas (43.6 per cent) to think multiculturalism made life better in their area. This difference may be explained, however, by a higher proportion of persons from rural areas thinking multiculturalism was not applicable in their area (18.2 per cent), compared with those living in the metropolitan area (4.1 per cent).

Social and support networks

• Social support

- In 2008, most persons felt they could get help from family, friends or neighbours when needed. More than eight in 10 persons (80.3 per cent) reported that they could definitely get help from family if needed. Similar proportions of males, females and persons in the rural and metropolitan areas of the state were able to get help from family when needed.
- In 2008, more than eight in 10 persons (80.6 per cent) aged 18 years and over felt they could definitely get help from friends, and a further 13.7 per cent felt they could sometimes get help if needed.
- Slightly more than half (50.2 per cent) of persons felt they could definitely get help from neighbours if required, and a further 21.4 per cent of persons anticipated getting help from neighbours sometimes. Compared with the situation of getting help from family and friends when needed, stronger metropolitan-rural differences were evident in the proportion of persons who reported they were able to get help from neighbours when needed: almost six in 10 persons living in rural areas (57.8 per cent) reported they could definitely get help from neighbours when needed, compared with 47.6 per cent of those living in the metropolitan area.

• Help with care in an emergency

- In 2008, most people (88.5 per cent) reported there was someone outside their household who could provide care in the event of an emergency.
- Persons living in rural areas (90.5 per cent) were more likely than those from the metropolitan area (87.8 per cent) to have a relative or friend who could care for them (or their children) in an emergency.
- Younger persons were more likely to report they could get emergency care, compared with older persons. Older females (84.4 per cent) were more likely to have a friend or relative who could care for them in an emergency, compared with older males (81.1 per cent).

• Receiving help finding a job through a relative or friend

- In 2008, over half (54.3 per cent) of people aged 18–64 years reported they could find a job through a relative or a friend. A higher proportion of males (58.3 per cent) than females (50.4 per cent) said they could find a job in this way.
- Reporting that a relative or a friend may be able to help with finding a job decreased with age. For all age groups (except 35–44 years), a higher proportion of males than females reported they could find a job in this way.
- A higher proportion of persons aged 18–64 years living in rural areas (57.1 per cent) indicated they could find a job in this way, compared with those living in the metropolitan area (53.4 per cent). This metropolitan-rural difference was evident in the proportions of males of working age who could find a job through a relative or a friend, but not in the proportions of females.

• Receiving help from a volunteer organisation

- In 2008, more than one in 20 persons (5.8 per cent) had received help from volunteer organisations.
- Similar proportions of males, females and persons living in the metropolitan and rural areas had received help from volunteer organisations.
- Similar proportions of people in the age groups from 18–24 years to 55–64 years had received help from volunteer organisations. The proportion of persons who received such help was higher among those aged 65 years and over.

• Attending a support group meeting

- In 2008, one in 10 persons (10.0 per cent) reported they had attended a support group meeting in the past two years. Females were more likely (10.8 per cent) than males (9.2 per cent) to have attended a support group meeting in the past two years.
- The proportion of persons who had attended a support group meeting within the past two years did not differ by age group.
- A higher proportion of persons living in the metropolitan area (12.8 per cent) reported they had attended a support group meeting in the past two years, compared with those living in rural areas (9.3 per cent).

Trust and safety

• Feelings of trust

- In 2008, more than a third (37.5 per cent) of persons aged 18 years and over agreed most people definitely can be trusted, and a further four in 10 persons (40.4 per cent) agreed others can be trusted sometimes. On average, more than three quarters of persons (77.9 per cent) agreed others can be trusted sometimes or definitely.
- A higher proportion of males (41.4 per cent) than females (33.8 per cent) agreed most people definitely can be trusted.
- A higher proportion of males in older age groups than in younger age groups agreed most people can be trusted. Females in all age groups (except those aged 18–24 years) were less likely than males to agree most people definitely can be trusted.
- A higher proportion of persons living in rural areas (41.6 per cent) agreed most people can be trusted, compared with those living in the metropolitan area (36.0 per cent).
- Across Department of Health regions, the proportion of persons who agreed most people can be trusted was higher than the average for Victoria (37.5 per cent) in the Barwon–South Western (43.4 per cent), Loddon Mallee (42.6 per cent), Grampians (41.7 per cent), and Hume (40.6 per cent) regions.

• Opportunities to have a say

- In 2008, almost three quarters of the Victorian population (74.0 per cent) felt there was an opportunity to have a say on matters of importance to them.
- More than one in 10 persons (12.3 per cent) felt they did not have an opportunity to have a say on issues that they considered to be important.
- Compared with persons aged 18–24 years, persons aged 65 years and over were more likely to indicate they had this opportunity (35.9 per cent and 45.0 per cent respectively).
- A higher proportion of persons living in rural areas (46.9 per cent) felt they had an opportunity to have a say on matters of importance, compared with those living in the metropolitan area (40.6 per cent).

• Feeling valued by society

- In 2008, more than half of all persons (52.4 per cent) felt they were definitely valued by society. A further 29.1 per cent felt they were valued by society only sometimes.
- A higher proportion of males (56.2 per cent) living in rural areas definitely felt valued by society, compared with those living in the metropolitan area (52.0 per cent). There were no rural–metropolitan differences for females.

• Feeling safe walking down street at night

- In 2008, almost six in 10 persons (58.9 per cent) said they definitely felt safe walking down their street alone after dark. A further 15.4 per cent of persons reported they sometimes felt safe in these circumstances.
- A higher proportion of males (74.4 per cent) than females (43.9 per cent) definitely felt safe walking alone down their street after dark.
- Definitely not feeling safe walking alone down their street at night was concentrated disproportionately among those aged 65 years and over for both males and females.
- A higher proportion of males and females living in rural areas (79.3 per cent and 51.5 per cent respectively) felt safe walking down their street alone after dark, compared with males and females living in the metropolitan area (72.8 per cent and 41.2 per cent respectively).

Community and civic engagement

• Membership of an organised group

- In 2008, more than one in four persons (26.0 per cent) was a member of a sports group, over one in five (22.5 per cent) was a member of a professional group or academic society, almost one in six (16.4 per cent) belonged to a church group and more than one in 10 (11.2 per cent) was a member of a school group. Almost one in five persons (19.0 per cent) was a member of a community or other action group.
- More than six in 10 (60.7 per cent) persons (62.6 per cent of males and 59.1 per cent of females) were members of one or more of the following: a sports group, a church group, a school group, a professional group or academic society, or some other community or action group.
- Group membership varied by age and sex. Membership of one or more sports groups was popular among males and females of all ages. Among those aged 65 years and over, almost one-third of females (30.0 per cent) and more than one-fifth of males (23.7 per cent) were members of a church group.
- Belonging to sports groups and other community or action groups was more popular in rural areas than in the metropolitan area, for both males and females.

• Attendance at a local event

- In 2008, more than half of males and females (50.9 per cent and 54.8 per cent respectively) had attended a community event in the preceding six months.
- Persons in the age groups 35–44 and 45–54 years were more likely than those in younger or older groups to have attended an event such as a church fête, school concert or craft exhibition within the previous six months.
- A higher proportion of males and females living in rural areas (64.1 per cent and 66.4 per cent) had attended a local community event in the preceding six months, compared with those who lived in the metropolitan area (46.3 per cent and 50.7 per cent respectively).

• Volunteering

- In 2008, more than one-fifth (22.2 per cent) of persons reported they had definitely helped out a local group as a volunteer, and a further 10.2 per cent sometimes did so.
- The propensity to help out a local group as a volunteer increased with age for males and females. Within each age group, males and females were similarly disposed to help out by volunteering.
- Volunteering was more prevalent among persons living in rural areas than among those in the metropolitan area.

• Taking local action on behalf of the community

- In 2008, more than four in 10 (40.7 per cent) persons who belonged to one or more sporting, church, school, professional or other community or action groups reported that the group had taken local action on behalf of the community within the past two years.
- Similar proportions of males and females who were members of one or more of these organised groups reported that the group had taken local action on behalf of the community within the past two years.
- There were no differences by age group in the prevalence of community action among persons who were group members.
- The proportion of persons who reported involvement in local action in the community within the past two years through an organised group was above the average for Victoria (40.7 per cent) in all five rural Department of Health regions.

• Membership of a decision-making board/committee

- In 2008, less than one-fifth (18.7 per cent) of persons reported being on a decision-making board or committee. A higher proportion of males (20.6 per cent) than females (16.9 per cent) had such responsibilities.
- Among females, those in the age groups 35–44 years and 45–54 years were more likely to be on a decision-making body than those in younger or older age groups. The proportion of males who had a decision-making role on a committee or board was highest among those aged 45–54 years and lowest among those aged 18–24 years.
- A higher proportion of persons in rural areas (23.0 per cent) were on a decision-making board or committee, compared with those living in the metropolitan area (17.2 per cent). This metropolitan–rural difference applied to both males and females.

Social Environment

Interaction, information and communication

Communication is central to developing and maintaining social ties, sharing knowledge and information, and staying in touch with events. There are many ways to stay in touch, apart from meeting face to face or speaking on the telephone. Computer and internet technology is increasingly being used as a means of finding information and of becoming, and staying, informed.

Contact with others

The 2008 survey collected information on the number of persons with whom a respondent spoke, either face to face or on the telephone, on the day before they were interviewed. The number of contacts on an average day does not necessarily reflect social isolation or detachment, but a lack of social contact may imply some vulnerability from not being in touch with people or events.

Table 8.1 provides data on the number of persons with whom an individual spoke the previous day, by age group and sex. Persons in older age groups, particularly older females, spoke with fewer persons on the previous day than did those in younger age groups. More than a third of persons (34.0 per cent) aged 65 years and over had spoken with 10 or more people the previous day, compared with six in 10 (60.1 per cent) persons aged 18–24 years. Among persons aged 65 years and over, a higher proportion of females than males (32.1 per cent and 28.0 per cent respectively) had spoken to fewer than five persons the previous day.

Table 8.1: Number of persons spoke with the previous day, by age group and sex, 2008

Age group (years)	Number of persons spoke with the previous day											
	None at all			Less than 5			5 to 9			10 or more		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males												
18–24 years	1.5*	0.8	2.8	12.8	10.1	16.1	22.8	19.1	27.0	62.9	58.2	67.3
25–34 years	3.3*	2.0	5.6	17.5	14.7	20.7	23.1	20.0	26.5	56.1	52.1	60.0
35–44 years	3.3	2.4	4.6	16.4	14.3	18.8	23.2	20.8	25.8	56.7	53.7	59.7
45–54 years	2.6	1.8	3.7	17.4	15.4	19.6	26.0	23.6	28.6	53.7	50.8	56.4
55–64 years	2.3	1.5	3.3	19.9	17.9	22.1	28.1	25.8	30.6	49.7	47.0	52.3
65+	2.2	1.6	2.9	28.0	25.9	30.1	32.0	29.9	34.2	37.0	34.8	39.2
Total	2.6	2.2	3.1	19.0	18.0	20.0	25.8	24.7	27.0	52.7	50.9	53.6
Females												
18–24 years	1.3	0.7	2.5	14.5	11.7	17.9	26.9	23.2	31.0	57.2	52.8	61.5
25–34 years	3.0	2.1	4.4	18.0	16.0	20.2	33.8	31.1	36.6	45.1	42.3	48.0
35–44 years	1.8	1.3	2.5	15.9	14.4	17.5	28.5	26.7	30.5	53.4	51.3	55.5
45–54 years	2.1	1.5	2.8	16.5	15.0	18.2	26.0	24.1	28.0	55.3	53.0	57.5
55–64 years	1.7	1.3	2.3	21.0	19.3	22.7	32.0	30.0	34.0	45.2	43.0	47.4
65+	2.5	2.0	3.2	32.1	30.3	34.0	33.0	31.2	34.9	31.6	29.9	33.4
Total	2.2	1.9	2.5	19.8	19.0	20.7	30.1	29.1	31.1	47.6	46.6	48.7
Persons												
18–24 years	1.4	0.9	2.2	13.7	11.6	16.0	24.9	22.2	27.7	60.1	56.9	63.2
25–34 years	3.2	2.3	4.4	17.7	16.0	19.6	28.4	26.3	30.7	50.6	48.2	53.1
35–44 years	2.5	2.0	3.2	16.1	14.8	17.6	25.9	24.4	27.5	55.1	53.2	56.9
45–54 years	2.3	1.9	3.0	17.0	15.7	18.3	26.0	24.5	27.6	54.5	52.7	56.3
55–64 years	2.0	1.5	2.5	20.4	19.1	21.8	30.1	28.5	31.7	47.4	45.7	49.1
65+	2.4	2.0	2.8	30.2	28.9	31.6	32.6	31.2	34.0	34.0	32.6	35.4
Total	2.4	2.1	2.7	19.5	18.8	20.1	28.0	27.2	28.8	49.9	49.0	50.7

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are crude estimates, except for the Victorian estimates which are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different to the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

* Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25 and 50 per cent and should be interpreted with caution.

Table 8.2 shows the proportion of persons with whom an individual spoke on the previous day, over time. The proportion of persons who spoke to fewer than five persons on the day before the survey decreased, from 21.8 per cent in 2001 to 19.5 per cent in 2008.

Table 8.2: Number of persons spoke with the previous day, 2001–2008

Number of persons spoke with the previous day	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Per cent							
None at all	0.9	1.0	1.1	0.5	2.1	2.4	1.5	2.4
Less than 5	21.8	17.4	17.5	17.8	18.3	18.5	17.8	19.5
5 to 9	29.6	26.8	27.3	22.9	28.2	27.3	28.0	28.0
10 or more	47.7	54.9	54.0	58.6	51.2	51.6	52.3	49.9

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Ordinary least squares linear regression was used to test for trends over time.

Table 8.3 shows the number of persons with whom an individual spoke the previous day, by sex and region. Almost half of all persons (49.9 per cent) had spoken to 10 or more persons the previous day. A small percentage of persons (2.4 per cent) reported they had not spoken to anyone the previous day. A higher proportion of persons living in the metropolitan area than in rural areas reported they had not spoken to anyone the previous day (2.6 per cent and 1.7 per cent respectively).

The proportion of females who had spoken to fewer than five people the previous day was above the average for Victoria (19.8 per cent) for the North and West Metropolitan region (22.7 per cent).

Table 8.3: Number of persons spoke with the previous day, by sex and Department of Health region, 2008

Region	Number of persons spoke with the previous day											
	None at all			Less than 5			5 to 9			10 or more		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males												
Barwon-South Western	1.7*	0.8	3.4	20.9	16.4	26.3	24.5	20.5	28.9	52.7	47.1	58.4
Eastern Metropolitan	2.3	1.5	3.4	19.4	17.0	22.2	23.9	21.1	26.9	54.0	50.6	57.4
Gippsland	1.4*	0.7	2.5	17.7	14.5	21.3	25.7	22.1	29.7	55.2	50.8	59.6
Grampians	2.7*	1.5	4.7	19.0	16.3	22.1	24.9	21.5	28.7	53.2	49.0	57.4
Hume	1.6	1.1	2.3	18.5	15.8	21.4	24.6	21.6	28.0	55.1	51.5	58.7
Loddon Mallee	1.3	0.8	2.2	16.3	13.6	19.4	25.0	21.5	28.7	57.1	52.8	61.2
North and West Metropolitan	2.9	2.1	4.0	19.5	17.8	21.4	27.3	25.3	29.5	49.8	47.5	52.1
Southern Metropolitan	3.1	2.2	4.4	18.4	16.4	20.7	26.5	24.0	29.1	51.7	48.8	54.5
Metropolitan	2.9	2.3	3.5	19.2	18.0	20.5	26.2	24.8	27.6	51.4	49.7	53.0
Rural	1.7	1.3	2.2	18.6	17.0	20.4	24.9	23.1	26.7	54.6	52.4	56.8
Total	2.6	2.2	3.1	19.0	18.0	20.0	25.8	24.7	27.0	52.2	50.9	53.6
Females												
Barwon-South Western	1.9*	1.0	3.8	17.9	15.0	21.2	28.7	24.5	33.2	50.9	46.5	55.3
Eastern Metropolitan	1.8	1.2	2.7	19.2	17.3	21.4	30.1	27.6	32.7	48.7	45.9	51.5
Gippsland	1.8	1.1	2.9	16.9	14.9	19.2	32.4	29.3	35.6	48.2	44.9	51.5
Grampians	1.7*	0.9	3.4	19.3	16.6	22.4	30.0	26.8	33.4	48.7	44.9	52.5
Hume	1.2*	0.8	1.8	20.4	18.3	22.7	28.5	26.1	31.0	49.8	47.0	52.5
Loddon Mallee	1.4*	0.8	2.4	15.2	13.6	17.1	32.3	29.3	35.5	50.9	47.8	54.1
North and West Metropolitan	2.7	2.2	3.3	22.7	21.3	24.3	30.0	28.2	31.7	44.3	42.5	46.2
Southern Metropolitan	2.4	1.7	3.4	19.2	17.5	21.1	30.3	28.2	32.5	47.8	45.5	50.2
Metropolitan	2.4	2.0	2.8	20.6	19.6	21.6	30.1	28.9	31.3	46.8	45.5	48.1
Rural	1.6	1.2	2.2	17.8	16.7	19.0	30.2	28.6	31.9	49.9	48.2	51.6
Total	2.2	1.9	2.5	19.8	19.0	20.7	30.1	29.1	31.1	47.6	46.6	48.7
Persons												
Barwon-South Western	1.8*	1.1	3.0	19.5	16.7	22.8	26.4	23.1	29.9	51.8	47.8	55.7
Eastern Metropolitan	2.1	1.5	2.7	19.3	17.7	21.0	27.1	25.2	29.1	51.3	49.1	53.5
Gippsland	1.5	1.1	2.3	17.5	15.5	19.6	29.0	26.6	31.5	51.6	48.9	54.4
Grampians	2.2	1.4	3.4	19.4	17.3	21.6	27.5	25.0	30.2	50.7	47.8	53.6
Hume	1.4	1.1	1.8	19.3	17.6	21.2	26.6	24.6	28.7	52.4	50.2	54.7
Loddon Mallee	1.3	0.9	2.0	15.8	14.2	17.6	28.6	26.3	31.1	53.9	51.3	56.6
North and West Metropolitan	2.8	2.4	3.4	21.2	20.1	22.4	28.6	27.3	30.0	47.0	45.5	48.5
Southern Metropolitan	2.8	2.2	3.5	18.9	17.5	20.3	28.3	26.7	30.0	49.7	47.9	51.6
Metropolitan	2.6	2.3	3.0	20.0	19.2	20.8	28.1	27.2	29.0	49.0	48.0	50.1
Rural	1.7	1.4	2.0	18.2	17.2	19.3	27.6	26.3	28.9	52.2	50.8	53.7
Total	2.4	2.1	2.7	19.5	18.8	20.1	28.0	27.2	28.8	49.9	49.0	50.7

Metropolitan and rural regions are identified by colour as follows: metropolitan / rural.

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

* Estimate has a relative standard error between 25 and 50 per cent and should be interpreted with caution.

Internet access

Use of the internet for social and commercial purposes has become increasingly common. Individuals who do not have ready access to the internet may be disadvantaged to the extent they cannot retrieve up-to-date information conveniently or routinely engage in different types of electronic social interaction. The 2008 survey collected information on whether the internet was accessible from a respondent's household.

Table 8.4 shows the proportion of persons who reported their household had internet access, by age group and sex. More than half (51.1 per cent) of persons aged 65 years and over reported that they did not have internet access. A higher proportion of females in older age groups reported their household did not have access to the internet, compared with males.

Table 8.4: Household internet access, by age group and sex, 2008

Age group (years)	No			Yes		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males						
18–24 years	4.6	3.0	6.9	95.3	92.9	96.8
25–34 years	7.9	6.1	10.2	91.0	88.5	93.1
35–44 years	7.7	6.4	9.3	92.0	90.4	93.4
45–54 years	9.6	8.2	11.2	90.0	88.4	91.5
55–64 years	16.5	14.8	18.4	82.8	80.8	84.5
65+	43.5	41.2	45.7	54.8	52.5	57.0
Total	15.5	14.8	16.3	83.7	83.0	84.5
Females						
18–24 years	6.0	4.4	8.2	93.4	91.1	95.1
25–34 years	8.5	7.1	10.1	91.1	89.5	92.5
35–44 years	9.2	8.0	10.5	90.4	89.1	91.6
45–54 years	9.5	8.4	10.7	89.5	88.2	90.7
55–64 years	25.7	23.9	27.5	73.1	71.2	74.9
65+	57.3	55.3	59.2	39.9	38.0	41.9
Total	19.7	19.1	20.3	79.1	78.5	79.8
Persons						
18–24 years	5.3	4.1	6.8	94.3	92.8	95.6
25–34 years	8.2	7.0	9.5	91.1	89.6	92.4
35–44 years	8.4	7.5	9.4	91.2	90.2	92.1
45–54 years	9.5	8.6	10.5	89.8	88.7	90.7
55–64 years	21.2	19.9	22.5	77.8	76.5	79.1
65+	51.1	49.6	52.6	46.6	45.1	48.1
Total	17.7	17.3	18.2	81.3	80.8	81.8

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are crude estimates, except for the Victorian estimates which are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different to the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: **above Victoria** / **below Victoria**.

Figure 8.2 depicts the ‘disproportionality’ in household access to the internet, by age group. Lack of household access to the internet is concentrated disproportionately among those aged 65 years and over. Persons in this age group accounted for more than one-sixth (17.5 per cent) of the population, but for more than half (51.3 per cent) of persons who reported not having access to the internet at home. By contrast, persons aged 18–24 years represented 12.9 per cent of the population and 3.9 per cent of those who did not have internet access at home.

Figure 8.2: ‘Disproportionality’ of lack of household internet access and population, by age group, 2008

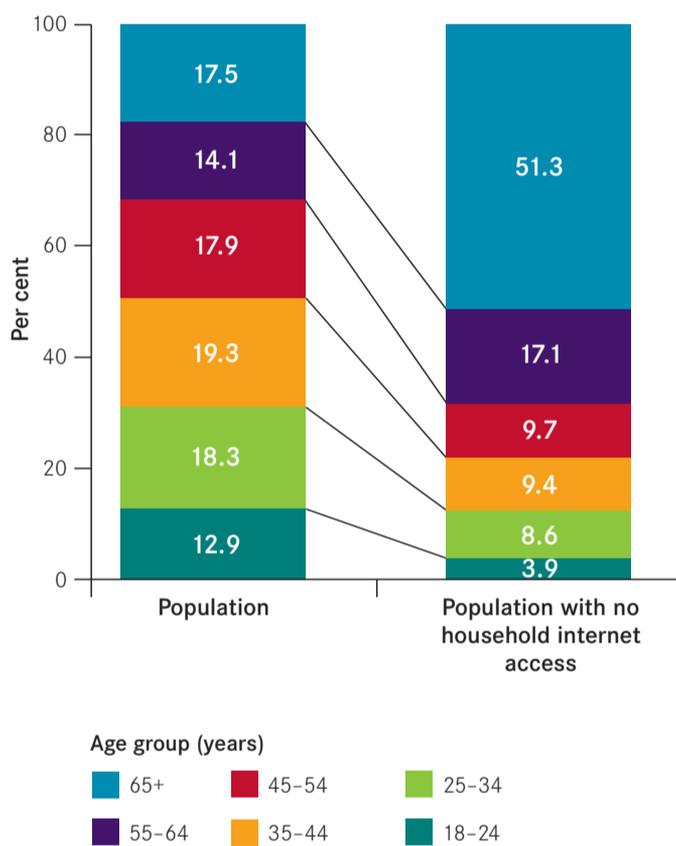


Table 8.5 shows the proportion of persons who reported their household had access to the internet, by region and sex. More than one-sixth (17.7 per cent) of persons reported their household did not have internet access. A higher proportion of persons from households in rural areas, compared with the metropolitan area, did not have access to the internet (20.5 per cent and 16.7 per cent respectively). The proportion of persons without household access to the internet was above the average for Victoria (17.7 per cent) in five Department of Health regions: the Grampians (22.9 per cent), Loddon Mallee (21.8 per cent), Gippsland (21.5 per cent), Hume (21.2 per cent) and North and West Metropolitan (20.9 per cent) regions. Except in the Gippsland and Grampians regions, a higher proportion of females than males reported their households did not have internet access.

Table 8.5: Household internet access, by sex and Department of Health region, 2008

Region	No			Yes		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males						
Barwon-South Western	13.8	11.8	16.0	85.9	83.6	87.9
Eastern Metropolitan	10.6	9.2	12.2	88.9	87.2	90.3
Gippsland	20.8	18.0	24.0	78.8	75.6	81.7
Grampians	22.0	19.1	25.2	77.4	74.2	80.4
Hume	18.9	16.8	21.3	80.1	77.6	82.3
Loddon Mallee	18.7	16.7	20.9	80.9	78.7	83.0
North and West Metropolitan	18.3	16.9	19.9	80.6	79.0	82.1
Southern Metropolitan	13.4	11.8	15.1	85.8	83.9	87.4
Metropolitan	14.5	13.6	15.4	84.7	83.7	85.6
Rural	18.3	17.2	19.5	81.2	80.0	82.3
Total	15.5	14.8	16.3	83.7	83.0	84.5
Females						
Barwon-South Western	20.1	18.0	22.4	79.3	77.0	81.4
Eastern Metropolitan	14.2	12.9	15.7	84.6	83.0	86.0
Gippsland	22.3	20.4	24.3	77.1	75.0	79.0
Grampians	23.5	21.2	25.9	75.6	73.2	77.9
Hume	23.4	21.7	25.2	75.8	74.0	77.5
Loddon Mallee	24.6	22.6	26.7	74.8	72.6	76.8
North and West Metropolitan	23.3	22.0	24.5	75.2	73.9	76.5
Southern Metropolitan	17.2	15.9	18.6	81.4	80.0	82.8
Metropolitan	18.7	17.9	19.5	80.0	79.2	80.8
Rural	22.5	21.6	23.5	76.8	75.8	77.7
Total	19.7	19.1	20.3	79.1	78.5	79.8
Persons						
Barwon-South Western	17.2	15.7	18.8	82.3	80.7	83.9
Eastern Metropolitan	12.5	11.5	13.6	86.6	85.5	87.6
Gippsland	21.5	19.8	23.4	77.9	76.0	79.7
Grampians	22.9	21.0	24.9	76.4	74.4	78.3
Hume	21.2	19.8	22.7	77.9	76.4	79.3
Loddon Mallee	21.8	20.3	23.3	77.7	76.2	79.2
North and West Metropolitan	20.9	20.0	21.9	77.8	76.8	78.7
Southern Metropolitan	15.5	14.4	16.6	83.4	82.2	84.5
Metropolitan	16.7	16.1	17.3	82.2	81.5	82.8
Rural	20.5	19.8	21.3	78.8	78.1	79.6
Total	17.7	17.3	18.2	81.3	80.8	81.8

Metropolitan and rural regions are identified by colour as follows: metropolitan / rural.

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

Tenure in neighbourhood

Neighbourhoods/local areas are an important unit in society. One indicator of the stability of neighbourhoods is the number of years that a person has lived in their current neighbourhood. Table 8.6 shows the proportion of persons who reported having lived in their neighbourhood (local area/suburb/town) for intervals ranging from less than a year, to more than 10 years, by age group and sex. The proportion of persons who had lived in their current neighbourhood for 10 years or more increased with age (except for persons aged 18–24 years), rising from one in five (20.1 per cent) of those aged 25–34 years to almost four in five (78.5 per cent) of those aged 65 years and over.

Table 8.6: Tenure in neighbourhood, by age group and sex, 2008

Age group (years)	Less than a year			More than one year and fewer than five years			More than five years and fewer than 10 years			10 years or more		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males												
18–24 years	12.6	9.7	16.0	22.0	18.4	26.1	11.7	9.1	15.0	53.6	48.9	58.4
25–34 years	20.4	17.5	23.7	44.8	40.9	48.8	12.8	10.5	15.5	21.7	18.2	25.6
35–44 years	9.0	7.4	11.0	30.1	27.4	32.9	27.9	25.3	30.7	32.8	30.0	35.8
45–54 years	3.9	2.9	5.2	15.8	13.9	17.8	20.1	17.9	22.4	60.2	57.4	62.9
55–64 years	2.8	2.1	3.8	11.8	10.3	13.6	15.5	13.6	17.6	69.6	67.1	72.0
65+	1.8	1.3	2.5	8.1	7.0	9.4	10.2	9.0	11.6	79.7	77.9	81.4
Total	8.7	7.9	9.6	23.0	21.9	24.2	16.8	15.9	17.8	51.3	50.0	52.5
Females												
18–24 years	17.6	14.4	21.2	22.9	19.6	26.7	13.1	10.3	16.4	46.2	41.8	50.7
25–34 years	15.9	13.9	18.1	45.7	42.8	48.6	19.6	17.5	22.0	18.6	16.3	21.2
35–44 years	6.9	6.0	8.0	28.3	26.4	30.2	30.4	28.5	32.4	34.4	32.4	36.4
45–54 years	3.8	3.0	4.7	13.5	12.1	15.1	19.3	17.6	21.1	63.4	61.2	65.5
55–64 years	2.9	2.3	3.7	12.1	10.8	13.5	14.1	12.7	15.7	70.5	68.6	72.4
65+	2.1	1.6	2.7	9.0	8.0	10.1	11.2	10.0	12.4	77.5	75.9	79.0
Total	8.2	7.5	8.8	22.7	21.8	23.6	18.4	17.6	19.2	50.6	49.6	51.5
Persons												
18–24 years	15.0	12.8	17.5	22.5	19.9	25.2	12.4	10.4	14.7	50.0	46.7	53.3
25–34 years	18.2	16.4	20.1	45.3	42.8	47.7	16.2	14.6	18.0	20.1	18.0	22.5
35–44 years	8.0	7.0	9.0	29.2	27.5	30.9	29.2	27.6	30.9	33.6	31.9	35.4
45–54 years	3.9	3.2	4.6	14.6	13.4	15.9	19.7	18.3	21.2	61.8	60.0	63.5
55–64 years	2.9	2.4	3.5	12.0	10.9	13.1	14.8	13.6	16.1	70.1	68.5	71.6
65+	2.0	1.6	2.4	8.6	7.9	9.4	10.8	9.9	11.7	78.5	77.3	79.6
Total	8.4	7.9	9.0	22.9	22.2	23.6	17.6	17.0	18.3	50.9	50.1	51.7

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are crude estimates, except for the totals, which represent the estimates for Victoria and have been age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different to the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: **above Victoria** / **below Victoria**.

Table 8.7 shows more than half (50.9 per cent) of persons had been resident in their neighbourhood or local area for 10 years or more. Of the remainder, 8.4 per cent of persons had lived in their current neighbourhood for less than a year, 22.9 per cent had been in their neighbourhood for between one and five years, and 17.6 per cent had resided in their neighbourhood for between five and 10 years.

There were few regional differences in neighbourhood tenure, although a higher proportion of persons from the metropolitan area (51.6 per cent) had lived in their neighbourhood for 10 years or more, compared with those from rural areas (49.1 per cent).

Table 8.7: Tenure in neighbourhood, by sex and Department of Health region, 2008

Region	Less than a year			More than one year and fewer than five years			More than five years and fewer than 10 years			10 years or more		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males												
Barwon-South Western	5.3	3.4	8.1	29.0	24.1	34.4	18.9	15.6	22.8	46.7	41.5	51.9
Eastern Metropolitan	8.2	6.2	10.7	20.0	17.4	22.9	15.9	13.5	18.5	55.8	52.5	59.0
Gippsland	6.6	4.7	9.3	22.1	18.6	26.0	15.8	13.1	18.9	55.5	51.4	59.5
Grampians	6.3	4.4	8.8	21.9	18.4	25.9	17.0	13.8	20.7	54.9	50.6	59.1
Hume	9.4	7.1	12.3	21.9	18.7	25.4	20.8	18.1	23.8	47.8	44.5	51.2
Loddon Mallee	10.1	7.3	13.8	24.0	20.3	28.0	16.9	13.8	20.5	49.0	45.3	52.6
North and West Metropolitan	9.0	7.7	10.5	23.0	21.1	24.9	15.3	13.8	17.0	52.5	50.4	54.7
Southern Metropolitan	9.6	8.0	11.6	23.8	21.4	26.4	18.6	16.5	21.0	47.8	45.1	50.4
Metropolitan	9.1	8.1	10.2	22.6	21.3	24.0	16.4	15.3	17.6	51.7	50.2	53.2
Rural	7.5	6.3	8.8	24.1	22.0	26.3	18.0	16.5	19.7	50.3	48.1	52.5
Total	8.7	7.9	9.6	23.0	21.9	24.2	16.8	15.9	17.8	51.3	50.0	52.5
Females												
Barwon-South Western	7.4	5.0	10.8	23.8	19.8	28.4	21.1	17.9	24.7	47.7	43.2	52.3
Eastern Metropolitan	6.8	5.4	8.5	18.8	16.7	21.1	18.8	16.8	21.0	55.4	52.7	58.1
Gippsland	9.1	7.1	11.6	23.4	20.6	26.4	18.5	16.2	21.1	48.9	46.0	51.9
Grampians	11.7	8.8	15.3	21.4	18.3	25.0	18.7	16.4	21.2	48.2	44.9	51.5
Hume	9.2	7.6	11.1	22.6	20.3	25.1	19.3	17.4	21.4	48.9	46.3	51.4
Loddon Mallee	11.1	8.9	13.8	25.2	22.5	28.2	17.4	15.3	19.8	46.2	43.4	49.0
North and West Metropolitan	7.7	6.6	8.8	23.1	21.6	24.6	16.9	15.6	18.2	52.2	50.5	53.9
Southern Metropolitan	8.3	6.9	9.8	24.3	22.5	26.2	19.1	17.3	20.9	48.2	46.0	50.4
Metropolitan	7.7	6.9	8.5	22.4	21.4	23.5	18.1	17.2	19.1	51.6	50.4	52.8
Rural	9.5	8.4	10.8	23.4	21.9	25.1	19.2	17.9	20.5	47.8	46.2	49.4
Total	8.2	7.5	8.8	22.7	21.8	23.6	18.4	17.6	19.2	50.6	49.6	51.5
Persons												
Barwon-South Western	6.3	4.7	8.5	26.5	23.1	30.2	20.0	17.5	22.7	47.1	43.4	50.9
Eastern Metropolitan	7.5	6.2	9.0	19.4	17.7	21.2	17.4	15.8	19.1	55.6	53.5	57.7
Gippsland	7.7	6.2	9.5	22.7	20.5	25.2	17.4	15.5	19.4	52.1	49.5	54.7
Grampians	9.1	7.2	11.4	21.5	19.0	24.1	17.9	15.9	20.1	51.5	48.7	54.3
Hume	9.3	7.8	11.0	22.2	20.2	24.3	20.0	18.3	21.8	48.5	46.4	50.6
Loddon Mallee	10.6	8.7	12.8	24.6	22.3	27.0	17.2	15.3	19.3	47.6	45.3	49.9
North and West Metropolitan	8.3	7.4	9.3	23.0	21.8	24.2	16.1	15.1	17.1	52.4	51.1	53.8
Southern Metropolitan	8.9	7.8	10.1	24.1	22.6	25.7	18.8	17.4	20.3	48.0	46.3	49.7
Metropolitan	8.4	7.7	9.0	22.5	21.7	23.4	17.3	16.5	18.1	51.6	50.7	52.6
Rural	8.5	7.7	9.4	23.8	22.5	25.1	18.6	17.6	19.7	49.1	47.7	50.5
Total	8.4	7.9	9.0	22.9	22.2	23.6	17.6	17.0	18.3	50.9	50.1	51.7

Metropolitan and rural regions are identified by colour as follows: metropolitan / rural.

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

Tolerance of diversity

Tolerance of diversity, or an ability to get along with individuals of different cultural and social backgrounds, is a key aspect of social cohesion. The 2008 survey asked respondents whether they thought multiculturalism (as a general concept) made life in their area better.

More than half (52.2 per cent) of persons thought multiculturalism definitely made life in their area better, and a further 24.0 per cent thought it made life in their area better sometimes. On average, 7.8 per cent of the population thought multiculturalism was not applicable to their area, and 7.1 per cent thought multiculturalism did not make life better in their area (table 8.8).

In most age groups, males and females were equally likely to think multiculturalism definitely made life in their area better. An exception was among those aged 65 years and over, with a higher proportion of males (44.5 per cent) than females (39.8 per cent) reporting multiculturalism definitely made life better in their area.

Table 8.8: Tolerance of diversity, by age group and sex, 2008

Age group (years)	No, not at all			Not often			Sometimes			Yes, definitely			Not applicable		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males															
18–24 years	6.2	4.3	9.0	4.2	2.7	6.5	34.2	29.7	39.0	51.2	46.4	56.0	2.3*	1.4	3.7
25–34 years	5.0	3.7	6.8	2.2	1.4	3.5	25.9	22.6	29.5	59.2	55.3	63.0	5.0	3.8	6.7
35–44 years	5.4	4.3	6.8	4.7	3.6	6.2	23.0	20.6	25.6	56.2	53.2	59.2	6.4	5.3	7.8
45–54 years	8.2	6.8	9.8	4.3	3.2	5.6	22.5	20.2	25.0	52.4	49.6	55.2	8.4	7.2	9.9
55–64 years	10.4	9.0	12.2	4.1	3.2	5.2	22.3	20.1	24.7	48.3	45.6	51.0	9.6	8.3	11.1
65+	11.7	10.3	13.2	4.2	3.3	5.2	20.0	18.2	21.9	44.5	42.2	46.8	11.2	10.0	12.5
Total	7.7	7.1	8.4	3.9	3.5	4.5	24.2	23.1	25.4	52.3	51.0	53.6	7.3	6.7	7.8
Females															
18–24 years	4.2	2.8	6.3	3.5	2.3	5.4	27.2	23.6	31.2	57.0	52.6	61.3	5.3	3.7	7.4
25–34 years	3.6	2.8	4.7	2.6	1.9	3.6	24.3	22.0	26.9	61.3	58.5	64.0	4.4	3.5	5.5
35–44 years	5.7	4.7	6.7	3.3	2.7	4.2	23.5	21.7	25.3	55.7	53.6	57.8	8.2	7.2	9.3
45–54 years	6.7	5.7	8.0	3.5	2.8	4.5	23.0	21.2	25.0	52.7	50.4	54.9	9.0	7.9	10.1
55–64 years	8.1	7.0	9.4	4.0	3.2	5.0	24.5	22.7	26.5	46.8	44.6	49.0	10.6	9.5	11.8
65+	10.2	9.0	11.4	4.0	3.3	4.8	22.0	20.5	23.7	39.8	38.0	41.7	12.6	11.5	13.8
Total	6.4	6.0	6.9	3.4	3.1	3.8	23.8	22.9	24.7	52.3	51.3	53.3	8.3	7.9	8.8
Persons															
18–24 years	5.2	4.0	6.9	3.9	2.8	5.3	30.8	27.8	33.9	54.1	50.8	57.3	3.8	2.8	5.0
25–34 years	4.3	3.5	5.3	2.4	1.8	3.1	25.1	23.1	27.3	60.2	57.8	62.6	4.7	3.9	5.7
35–44 years	5.5	4.8	6.4	4.0	3.3	4.8	23.2	21.7	24.8	56.0	54.2	57.8	7.3	6.5	8.2
45–54 years	7.4	6.6	8.4	3.9	3.2	4.7	22.8	21.3	24.4	52.5	50.7	54.3	8.7	7.9	9.6
55–64 years	9.3	8.3	10.3	4.1	3.4	4.8	23.5	22.0	24.9	47.5	45.8	49.3	10.1	9.2	11.1
65+	10.8	9.9	11.8	4.1	3.5	4.7	21.1	19.9	22.4	41.9	40.5	43.4	12.0	11.1	12.8
Total	7.1	6.7	7.5	3.7	3.4	4.0	24.0	23.3	24.8	52.2	51.4	53.1	7.8	7.5	8.2

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are crude estimates, except for the totals, which represent the estimates for Victoria and have been age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: **above Victoria** / **below Victoria**.

The proportion of persons who thought multiculturalism made life in their area better remained constant between 2005 and 2008 (table 8.9). In 2005, respondents were given the option of providing a 'not applicable' answer for the first time, if they considered their area was not multicultural. The addition of 'not applicable' had an impact on the rates between 2004 and 2005.

Table 8.9: Tolerance of diversity, 2001–2008

Tolerance of diversity	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Per cent							
Not at all	8.9	7.9	5.5	5.2	5.5	6.5	6.3	7.1
Not often	5.6	4.5	2.7	3.0	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.7
Sometimes	28.6	27.5	21.9	19.5	22.8	22.5	25.2	24.0
Yes, definitely	56.9	59.1	63.7	66.0	56.9	52.4	50.9	52.2
Not applicable	..	..	..	..	8.4	10.1	8.9	7.8

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Ordinary least squares regression was used to test for trends over time.

Persons who were living in the metropolitan area (55.1 per cent) were more likely than those in rural areas (43.6 per cent) to think multiculturalism made life better in their area (table 8.10). This difference may be largely explained, by a higher proportion of persons from rural areas (18.2 per cent) thinking multiculturalism was not applicable to their area, compared with those living in the metropolitan area (4.1 per cent).

Among Department of Health rural regions, the proportion of persons who thought multiculturalism made life better in their area ranged from more than a third (38.9 per cent) in the Loddon Mallee region to 51.2 per cent in the Barwon–South Western region. Similar proportions of persons in the three metropolitan regions thought multiculturalism made life better in their area. Rural males were more likely (10.5 per cent) to report multiculturalism did not make life in their area better, compared with rural females (6.3 per cent) and metropolitan males (6.8 per cent).

Table 8.10: Tolerance of diversity, by sex and Department of Health region, 2008

Region	No, not at all			Not often			Sometimes			Yes, definitely			Not applicable		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males															
Barwon-South Western	9.2	6.4	12.9	3.1*	1.9	5.1	17.1	12.8	22.4	51.6	45.5	57.7	14.5	11.8	17.7
Eastern Metropolitan	6.6	5.2	8.4	4.7	3.4	6.4	23.4	20.6	26.6	56.0	52.6	59.4	4.8	3.7	6.2
Gippsland	13.7	10.9	17.0	4.8	3.2	7.4	20.8	17.3	24.9	40.6	36.5	44.8	14.1	11.6	17.0
Grampians	9.6	7.4	12.3	3.6*	2.2	6.0	18.6	15.6	22.1	40.0	35.8	44.3	24.8	21.0	28.9
Hume	9.5	7.6	11.9	4.6	3.2	6.5	26.5	23.4	29.9	41.2	37.7	44.7	14.8	12.8	17.1
Loddon Mallee	11.3	9.0	14.1	3.7	2.4	5.7	20.6	17.2	24.4	37.6	33.8	41.6	22.0	18.6	25.9
North and West Metropolitan	7.3	6.2	8.5	4.0	3.2	5.1	26.8	24.8	29.0	55.4	53.1	57.7	1.8	1.3	2.4
Southern Metropolitan	6.7	5.4	8.3	3.4	2.5	4.5	25.8	23.2	28.6	54.6	51.6	57.5	4.7	3.7	5.9
Metropolitan	6.8	6.1	7.6	4.0	3.4	4.7	25.5	24.1	27.0	55.4	53.8	57.0	3.5	3.0	4.1
Rural	10.5	9.3	11.8	3.9	3.2	4.8	20.4	18.6	22.3	42.9	40.5	45.2	17.8	16.3	19.4
Total	7.7	7.1	8.4	3.9	3.5	4.5	24.2	23.1	25.4	52.3	51.0	53.6	7.3	6.7	7.8
Females															
Barwon-South Western	4.1	2.9	5.7	2.1*	1.2	3.8	18.8	16.0	22.0	50.9	46.3	55.5	19.2	15.9	23.1
Eastern Metropolitan	6.0	4.9	7.4	3.4	2.5	4.6	23.6	21.3	26.1	56.5	53.7	59.2	4.9	4.0	5.9
Gippsland	8.3	6.4	10.6	3.5	2.5	4.8	24.4	21.5	27.5	42.7	39.5	46.0	15.7	13.7	18.0
Grampians	5.6	4.1	7.5	2.2	1.6	3.0	22.8	19.4	26.6	45.7	41.9	49.5	18.4	16.2	20.8
Hume	7.3	6.0	8.8	4.3	3.3	5.5	26.7	24.2	29.3	40.8	38.2	43.5	16.4	14.9	18.1
Loddon Mallee	6.9	5.6	8.4	3.6	2.8	4.6	22.6	20.0	25.6	40.1	37.1	43.2	22.2	19.8	24.7
North and West Metropolitan	6.9	6.1	7.8	3.5	2.9	4.2	24.6	23.1	26.3	54.2	52.4	56.0	3.5	2.9	4.2
Southern Metropolitan	6.8	5.7	8.1	4.1	3.2	5.1	24.2	22.2	26.2	53.5	51.2	55.8	5.8	4.9	6.8
Metropolitan	6.5	6.0	7.2	3.6	3.2	4.1	24.2	23.1	25.3	54.9	53.6	56.1	4.6	4.2	5.1
Rural	6.3	5.6	7.1	3.1	2.6	3.6	22.6	21.2	24.1	44.5	42.7	46.2	18.7	17.4	20.0
Total	6.4	6.0	6.9	3.4	3.1	3.8	23.8	22.9	24.7	52.3	51.3	53.3	8.3	7.9	8.8
Persons															
Barwon-South Western	6.6	5.1	8.7	2.6	1.7	3.8	18.0	15.2	21.1	51.2	47.4	55.0	17.0	14.7	19.6
Eastern Metropolitan	6.3	5.4	7.4	4.1	3.2	5.1	23.6	21.8	25.6	56.1	53.9	58.3	4.9	4.1	5.7
Gippsland	10.9	9.2	12.9	4.2	3.1	5.6	22.5	20.2	25.0	41.5	38.9	44.2	15.1	13.4	16.9
Grampians	7.6	6.2	9.3	2.9	2.0	4.0	20.7	18.3	23.4	42.9	40.1	45.9	21.4	19.2	23.9
Hume	8.4	7.2	9.8	4.4	3.5	5.5	26.6	24.5	28.7	41.0	38.8	43.3	15.6	14.3	17.0
Loddon Mallee	9.0	7.7	10.6	3.6	2.8	4.7	21.7	19.5	24.0	38.9	36.4	41.5	22.0	19.9	24.3
North and West Metropolitan	7.1	6.4	7.9	3.8	3.2	4.4	25.7	24.4	27.0	54.7	53.2	56.2	2.6	2.3	3.1
Southern Metropolitan	6.7	5.9	7.7	3.8	3.1	4.5	25.0	23.4	26.7	54.0	52.1	55.8	5.2	4.6	6.0
Metropolitan	6.7	6.2	7.2	3.8	3.4	4.2	24.9	24.0	25.8	55.1	54.0	56.1	4.1	3.7	4.5
Rural	8.4	7.7	9.1	3.5	3.0	4.0	21.6	20.4	22.8	43.6	42.2	45.1	18.2	17.2	19.2
Total	7.1	6.7	7.5	3.7	3.4	4.0	24.0	23.3	24.8	52.2	51.4	53.1	7.8	7.5	8.2

Metropolitan and rural regions are identified by colour as follows: metropolitan / rural.

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

* Estimate has a relative standard error between 25 and 50 per cent and should be interpreted with caution.

Social and support networks

Families, friends and neighbours are among the more immediate sources of care and support for individuals if they need help with everyday activities or unforeseen contingencies. They are part of the social environment in which adults spend a large part of each day and in which children grow and develop. Social and support networks refer to informal relationships that individuals have with family, friends, neighbours and other members of their community. These networks often serve as a resource, providing individuals with information or emotional, practical and financial support. These resources are often provided to an individual without obligation, except for a norm of reciprocity. At a social level, social and support networks provide individuals with a sense of belonging.

Another layer of support within the community is provided by volunteer organisations and support groups. Many individuals receive their help. Volunteer organisations provide a vehicle for individuals or groups to address human, environmental and social needs. Support groups provide an opportunity for people to share experiences with others with similar backgrounds or experiences, and often benefit from the work of volunteers.

Ability to get help from family, friends and neighbours

An individual's informal relationships with family, friends, and neighbours provide valuable support in times of need. The 2008 survey asked respondents whether they were able to get help from family, friends and neighbours if they needed it. Tables 8.11–8.13 show the proportions of persons who reported they could get help from each of these sources, by sex and age group.

More than eight in 10 persons aged 18–24 years, 25–34 years, 55–64 years and 65 years and over reported they were definitely able to get help from family if needed (table 8.11). Similar proportions of males and females in each age group reported they could definitely get help from family if needed.

Table 8.12 shows the proportion of persons who reported they could get help from friends if they needed it. A higher proportion of females (79.7 per cent) than males (74.9 per cent) aged 35–44 years reported they could definitely get help from friends; in other age groups, the proportions were similar for males and females. A higher proportion of persons aged 65 years and over (4.7 per cent) reported they could not get help from friends if needed, compared with those in other age groups.

Being able to get help from neighbours when needed was related to age, with a higher proportion of those in older age groups reporting they definitely were able to get help when needed (table 8.13). Similar proportions of males and females in each age group reported they were definitely able to get help from neighbours.

Table 8.11: Able to get help from family when needed, by age group and sex, 2008

Age group (years)	No, not at all			Not often			Sometimes			Yes, definitely		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males												
18–24 years	1.6*	0.8	3.1	1.3*	0.5	3.4	8.2	6.0	11.1	88.6	85.3	91.3
25–34 years	2.9*	1.9	4.5	2.6	1.6	4.4	13.8	11.2	16.8	80.4	77.0	83.3
35–44 years	4.4	3.4	5.8	3.6	2.7	4.8	15.6	13.5	17.9	75.8	73.2	78.3
45–54 years	4.8	3.8	6.1	2.9	2.1	4.0	14.1	12.2	16.1	77.6	75.2	79.8
55–64 years	4.3	3.4	5.4	2.4	1.7	3.2	11.0	9.4	12.7	81.2	79.1	83.2
65+	4.4	3.7	5.2	2.2	1.7	3.0	8.1	6.9	9.4	84.4	82.7	85.9
Total	3.9	3.5	4.4	2.5	2.2	3.0	12.1	11.2	13.0	80.8	79.7	81.8
Females												
18–24 years	1.2*	0.6	2.3	2.9	1.8	4.8	9.8	7.6	12.6	85.7	82.5	88.5
25–34 years	4.5	3.5	5.7	3.6	2.7	4.8	11.7	10.0	13.6	80.0	77.7	82.2
35–44 years	6.2	5.3	7.3	5.6	4.6	6.7	14.8	13.3	16.3	72.9	71.0	74.8
45–54 years	5.3	4.4	6.4	4.9	4.0	6.0	14.1	12.6	15.8	75.4	73.4	77.3
55–64 years	3.5	2.8	4.2	2.9	2.2	3.7	9.0	7.9	10.3	84.4	82.8	85.8
65+	3.9	3.3	4.7	2.5	2.1	3.1	9.0	7.9	10.1	83.9	82.4	85.2
Total	4.3	3.9	4.7	3.8	3.4	4.2	11.6	11.0	12.3	79.9	79.1	80.7
Persons												
18–24 years	1.4	0.8	2.2	2.1	1.3	3.3	9.0	7.4	10.9	87.2	85.0	89.2
25–34 years	3.7	3.0	4.6	3.1	2.4	4.1	12.7	11.2	14.5	80.2	78.2	82.1
35–44 years	5.4	4.6	6.2	4.6	3.9	5.4	15.2	13.9	16.5	74.4	72.8	75.9
45–54 years	5.1	4.4	5.9	3.9	3.3	4.7	14.1	12.9	15.4	76.5	75.0	78.0
55–64 years	3.9	3.3	4.5	2.6	2.1	3.2	10.0	9.0	11.1	82.8	81.5	84.1
65+	4.1	3.6	4.7	2.4	2.0	2.8	8.6	7.8	9.4	84.1	83.0	85.1
Total	4.1	3.8	4.4	3.2	2.9	3.5	11.9	11.3	12.4	80.3	79.7	81.0

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are crude estimates, except for the totals, which represent the estimates for Victoria and have been age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

* Estimate has a relative standard error between 25 and 50 per cent and should be interpreted with caution.

Table 8.12: Able to get help from friends when needed, by age group and sex, 2008

Age group (years)	No, not at all			Not often			Sometimes			Yes, definitely		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males												
18–24 years	0.3*	0.1	0.8	2.8*	1.5	5.1	11.7	8.9	15.3	85.2	81.3	88.3
25–34 years	1.8*	1.1	2.9	1.7	1.0	3.1	15.8	13.1	19.0	80.4	77.1	83.4
35–44 years	2.4	1.6	3.6	3.6	2.5	5.0	18.7	16.4	21.1	74.9	72.1	77.4
45–54 years	2.6	1.8	3.7	2.2	1.5	3.2	17.1	15.0	19.3	77.7	75.3	80.0
55–64 years	2.4	1.7	3.4	2.9	2.0	4.1	12.8	11.1	14.8	80.9	78.7	83.0
65+	4.0	3.2	5.0	2.8	2.2	3.7	9.9	8.6	11.4	81.1	79.3	82.8
Total	2.4	2.0	2.7	2.7	2.3	3.2	14.7	13.8	15.7	79.5	78.4	80.6
Females												
18–24 years	1.5*	0.7	3.3	1.9*	1.0	3.7	10.4	8.0	13.4	86.2	82.8	89.0
25–34 years	1.4	0.9	2.2	1.7	1.2	2.6	14.7	12.8	16.8	82.0	79.7	84.1
35–44 years	2.4	1.8	3.1	2.5	1.9	3.3	15.2	13.8	16.8	79.7	77.9	81.3
45–54 years	2.4	1.8	3.1	2.7	2.1	3.6	13.1	11.6	14.8	81.5	79.6	83.2
55–64 years	3.1	2.4	4.0	2.1	1.5	2.8	10.9	9.6	12.4	83.4	81.7	85.0
65+	5.2	4.4	6.1	2.7	2.1	3.4	10.5	9.4	11.8	79.9	78.3	81.4
Total	2.8	2.5	3.1	2.3	2.0	2.6	12.7	12.0	13.5	81.7	80.9	82.5
Persons												
18–24 years	0.9*	0.4	1.7	2.4	1.5	3.7	11.1	9.2	13.3	85.7	83.2	87.8
25–34 years	1.6	1.2	2.2	1.7	1.2	2.5	15.3	13.5	17.1	81.2	79.2	83.1
35–44 years	2.4	1.9	3.1	3.0	2.4	3.8	16.9	15.6	18.4	77.3	75.7	78.8
45–54 years	2.5	2.0	3.1	2.5	2.0	3.1	15.1	13.8	16.5	79.6	78.1	81.1
55–64 years	2.7	2.2	3.4	2.5	1.9	3.1	11.9	10.8	13.0	82.2	80.8	83.5
65+	4.7	4.1	5.3	2.8	2.3	3.3	10.2	9.4	11.2	80.4	79.2	81.6
Total	2.6	2.3	2.8	2.5	2.2	2.8	13.7	13.1	14.3	80.6	79.9	81.3

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are crude estimates, except for the totals, which represent the estimates for Victoria and have been age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

* Estimate has a relative standard error between 25 and 50 per cent and should be interpreted with caution.

Table 8.13: Able to get help from neighbours when needed, by age group and sex, 2008

Age group (years)	No, not at all			Not often			Sometimes			Yes, definitely		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males												
18–24 years	21.0	17.4	25.1	12.1	9.2	15.6	27.2	23.1	31.8	36.6	32.1	41.3
25–34 years	25.1	21.7	28.8	9.2	7.3	11.6	24.0	20.8	27.6	35.8	32.0	39.7
35–44 years	15.7	13.7	18.0	8.1	6.6	9.8	25.2	22.7	28.0	47.1	44.1	50.2
45–54 years	14.2	12.3	16.4	6.5	5.3	8.0	22.4	20.2	24.8	53.2	50.4	56.1
55–64 years	12.5	10.8	14.4	5.7	4.6	7.1	17.1	15.2	19.3	61.6	58.9	64.2
65+	10.6	9.2	12.1	4.7	3.8	5.8	12.9	11.4	14.5	67.4	65.2	69.5
Total	16.6	15.6	17.7	7.7	7.0	8.5	21.3	20.2	22.5	50.2	48.9	51.5
Females												
18–24 years	21.8	18.4	25.7	12.1	9.5	15.2	30.2	26.2	34.6	32.9	28.9	37.1
25–34 years	22.9	20.5	25.4	8.9	7.4	10.7	24.6	22.1	27.2	39.6	36.8	42.4
35–44 years	17.7	16.2	19.4	7.0	6.0	8.1	24.6	22.8	26.4	47.9	45.8	50.1
45–54 years	14.4	12.9	16.1	7.0	5.9	8.3	21.3	19.5	23.3	53.8	51.5	56.1
55–64 years	12.9	11.5	14.6	5.9	5.0	7.1	18.2	16.6	20.0	59.6	57.4	61.7
65+	12.6	11.3	14.0	4.8	4.0	5.7	12.4	11.2	13.7	66.2	64.3	68.0
Total	17.1	16.3	18.0	7.5	6.9	8.1	21.6	20.7	22.5	50.3	49.2	51.3
Persons												
18–24 years	21.4	18.9	24.2	12.1	10.1	14.4	28.7	25.7	31.8	34.8	31.8	37.9
25–34 years	24.0	21.9	26.2	9.1	7.8	10.5	24.3	22.2	26.5	37.7	35.3	40.1
35–44 years	16.8	15.4	18.1	7.5	6.6	8.5	24.9	23.3	26.5	47.5	45.7	49.4
45–54 years	14.3	13.1	15.7	6.8	5.9	7.7	21.9	20.4	23.4	53.5	51.7	55.3
55–64 years	12.7	11.6	14.0	5.8	5.1	6.7	17.7	16.4	19.0	60.6	58.9	62.2
65+	11.7	10.7	12.7	4.7	4.1	5.4	12.6	11.7	13.7	66.7	65.3	68.1
Total	16.9	16.3	17.6	7.6	7.1	8.1	21.4	20.7	22.2	50.2	49.4	51.1

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are crude estimates, except for the totals, which represent the estimates for Victoria and have been age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

Table 8.14 shows the proportion of persons who reported being able to get help from family, friends or neighbours when needed, over time. The proportion of persons who reported being able to get help from family, friends or neighbours remained constant between 2001 and 2008.

Table 8.14: Ability to get help when needed, 2001–2008

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Per cent							
Can you get help from friends when you need it?								
Not at all	3.1	2.9	3.2	3.8	2.9	2.7	2.9	2.6
Not often	2.7	3.1	2.6	2.6	3.1	2.1	2.1	2.5
Sometimes	14.7	14.1	13.8	12.6	14.2	12.3	14.5	13.7
Yes, definitely	79.5	79.9	80.4	80.6	78.9	82.1	79.6	80.6
Can you get help from family members when you need it?								
Not at all	4.4	4.3	3.7	4.4	3.9	3.9	4.1	4.1
Not often	3.0	3.0	2.2	2.5	2.6	3.3	3.2	3.2
Sometimes	10.6	9.8	10.4	8.9	11.3	11.8	11.2	11.9
Yes, definitely	82.0	83.0	83.7	84.0	82.0	80.6	81.0	80.3
Can you get help from neighbours when you need it?								
Not at all	13.1	18.8	21.0	22.1	15.8	16.6	16.9	16.9
Not often	9.1	9.4	7.8	8.6	8.8	7.5	8.5	7.6
Sometimes	26.9	20.0	19.6	18.2	21.3	20.1	22.6	21.4
Yes, definitely	50.9	51.7	51.6	49.5	50.0	51.2	47.8	50.2

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Ordinary least squares regression was used to test for trends over time.

Tables 8.15–8.17 show whether persons could get help from family, friends or neighbours, by sex and Department of Health region. More than eight in 10 persons (80.3 per cent) reported they could definitely get help from family if needed (table 8.15). A further 11.9 per cent of persons could get help sometimes. Less than five per cent of persons reported they could get help either not often or not at all (3.2 per cent and 4.1 per cent respectively).

Similar proportions of males, females and persons in rural and metropolitan areas of the state were able to get help from family. The proportions differed little across regions, relative to the average for Victoria (80.3 per cent). However, the proportion of persons from the Grampians region (84.3 per cent) who reported they could definitely get help from family was higher than the average for Victoria.

Table 8.15: Able to get help from family when needed, by sex and Department of Health region, 2008

Region	No, not at all			Not often			Sometimes			Yes, definitely		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males												
Barwon-South Western	3.1*	1.9	5.1	1.9*	1.2	3.0	11.0	8.2	14.5	83.2	79.4	86.4
Eastern Metropolitan	3.6	2.5	5.0	2.3	1.5	3.5	13.1	10.9	15.7	80.1	77.2	82.8
Gippsland	3.8	2.7	5.5	3.6	2.2	5.7	10.8	8.5	13.7	81.5	78.1	84.5
Grampians	2.6	2.0	3.3	2.1	1.3	3.5	10.8	8.6	13.4	84.3	81.4	86.7
Hume	5.8	4.0	8.4	3.1	2.2	4.2	12.6	10.2	15.5	78.0	74.6	81.0
Loddon Mallee	3.4	2.5	4.6	1.3	0.9	1.9	9.0	7.2	11.3	86.2	83.7	88.3
North and West Metropolitan	4.3	3.5	5.3	2.4	1.8	3.2	12.0	10.6	13.5	80.5	78.7	82.3
Southern Metropolitan	3.8	2.9	5.0	3.0	2.1	4.2	12.7	10.8	14.9	80.0	77.5	82.2
Metropolitan	4.0	3.4	4.6	2.6	2.1	3.2	12.5	11.5	13.6	80.2	78.9	81.5
Rural	3.7	3.1	4.5	2.3	1.9	2.8	10.7	9.5	12.0	82.8	81.3	84.2
Total	3.9	3.5	4.4	2.5	2.2	3.0	12.1	11.2	13.0	80.8	79.7	81.8
Females												
Barwon-South Western	4.1	2.8	5.8	5.3	3.3	8.2	12.5	9.5	16.3	77.7	73.2	81.6
Eastern Metropolitan	4.4	3.4	5.6	3.7	2.8	4.8	10.1	8.7	11.7	81.5	79.5	83.4
Gippsland	3.5	2.7	4.6	3.2	2.4	4.2	10.3	8.5	12.5	82.7	80.3	84.8
Grampians	3.8	2.9	4.9	2.6	2.0	3.4	9.2	7.8	10.9	84.2	82.2	86.0
Hume	3.7	3.0	4.6	3.1	2.5	3.8	12.2	10.4	14.3	80.7	78.4	82.8
Loddon Mallee	4.4	3.4	5.7	4.2	3.3	5.4	12.6	10.4	15.1	78.6	75.9	81.1
North and West Metropolitan	4.3	3.7	5.0	3.7	3.1	4.4	12.5	11.3	13.7	79.1	77.6	80.6
Southern Metropolitan	4.6	3.8	5.5	3.8	3.0	4.7	12.2	10.7	13.9	78.9	76.9	80.7
Metropolitan	4.4	3.9	4.9	3.8	3.3	4.3	11.7	10.9	12.5	79.7	78.7	80.7
Rural	3.9	3.4	4.5	3.9	3.2	4.7	11.5	10.3	12.7	80.4	78.9	81.8
Total	4.3	3.9	4.7	3.8	3.4	4.2	11.6	11.0	12.3	79.9	79.1	80.7
Persons												
Barwon-South Western	3.6	2.7	4.9	3.6	2.5	5.2	11.7	9.5	14.3	80.5	77.5	83.2
Eastern Metropolitan	4.0	3.2	4.9	3.0	2.4	3.8	11.6	10.2	13.1	80.9	79.1	82.6
Gippsland	3.7	2.9	4.6	3.4	2.6	4.6	10.6	9.1	12.4	82.1	80.0	84.0
Grampians	3.2	2.6	3.9	2.4	1.8	3.1	9.9	8.6	11.4	84.3	82.6	85.8
Hume	4.8	3.7	6.2	3.1	2.5	3.7	12.4	10.9	14.2	79.2	77.2	81.1
Loddon Mallee	3.9	3.2	4.7	2.8	2.3	3.5	10.8	9.3	12.5	82.4	80.5	84.1
North and West Metropolitan	4.3	3.8	4.9	3.1	2.6	3.6	12.2	11.3	13.2	79.8	78.6	80.9
Southern Metropolitan	4.2	3.6	5.0	3.4	2.8	4.2	12.4	11.2	13.8	79.4	77.8	80.9
Metropolitan	4.2	3.8	4.6	3.2	2.9	3.6	12.1	11.4	12.8	80.0	79.1	80.8
Rural	3.8	3.4	4.3	3.1	2.7	3.6	11.1	10.3	12.0	81.6	80.6	82.6
Total	4.1	3.8	4.4	3.2	2.9	3.5	11.9	11.3	12.4	80.3	79.7	81.0

Metropolitan and rural regions are identified by colour as follows: metropolitan / rural.

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

* Estimate has a relative standard error between 25 and 50 per cent and should be interpreted with caution.

Table 8.16 shows more than eight in 10 persons (80.6 per cent) felt they could definitely get help from friends if needed, and a further 13.7 per cent felt they could sometimes get help. The proportion of males living in rural regions who felt they could definitely get help from friends (83.4 per cent) was higher than the average for Victoria (79.5 per cent). Although the proportion of females who felt they could get help from friends was similar for metropolitan and rural areas, there were some regional differences. The proportion of females from the Hume region (85.0 per cent) who felt they could get help from friends was higher than the average for Victoria (81.7 per cent), and the proportion of females from the North and West Metropolitan region (78.6 per cent) who could get help from friends was lower than the average for Victoria.

Table 8.16: Able to get help from friends when needed, by sex and Department of Health region, 2008

Region	No, not at all			Not often			Sometimes			Yes, definitely		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males												
Barwon-South Western	1.3	0.8	2.2	1.8*	1.0	3.4	9.5	7.1	12.7	86.8	83.5	89.6
Eastern Metropolitan	2.0	1.4	3.0	2.9	1.9	4.4	15.6	13.0	18.5	78.3	75.1	81.1
Gippsland	2.9*	1.6	5.2	2.0*	0.8	4.9	14.3	11.6	17.4	80.4	76.4	83.9
Grampians	2.9	2.0	4.2	2.2*	1.3	4.0	11.9	9.7	14.3	82.7	79.7	85.3
Hume	2.2	1.5	3.3	1.6	0.9	2.8	16.7	13.9	20.0	78.8	75.5	81.8
Loddon Mallee	1.7	1.1	2.7	2.3*	1.2	4.4	10.3	8.4	12.6	85.5	82.6	87.9
North and West Metropolitan	2.9	2.3	3.8	2.9	2.2	3.9	16.4	14.7	18.2	77.2	75.2	79.1
Southern Metropolitan	2.4	1.6	3.5	2.9	2.1	4.0	14.8	12.7	17.0	79.0	76.5	81.3
Metropolitan	2.5	2.0	3.0	2.9	2.4	3.6	15.5	14.3	16.8	78.2	76.8	79.5
Rural	2.1	1.7	2.7	2.0	1.4	2.7	12.1	10.9	13.4	83.4	81.9	84.8
Total	2.4	2.0	2.7	2.7	2.3	3.2	14.7	13.8	15.7	79.5	78.4	80.6
Females												
Barwon-South Western	2.8*	1.4	5.6	1.2*	0.7	2.1	11.3	8.5	15.0	84.3	80.2	87.7
Eastern Metropolitan	2.4	1.8	3.2	2.6	1.7	3.7	12.6	10.9	14.6	82.0	79.8	84.0
Gippsland	3.0	2.1	4.2	1.0*	0.6	1.7	12.3	10.1	14.8	83.4	80.6	85.8
Grampians	1.8	1.3	2.4	1.4	0.9	2.1	12.2	9.8	15.1	83.7	80.7	86.3
Hume	2.4	1.8	3.2	1.5*	0.9	2.6	10.7	9.2	12.4	85.0	83.0	86.7
Loddon Mallee	2.7	2.0	3.6	1.5	1.0	2.2	12.5	10.2	15.1	83.0	80.3	85.4
North and West Metropolitan	3.8	3.2	4.6	3.1	2.5	3.8	13.7	12.5	15.0	78.6	77.0	80.1
Southern Metropolitan	2.1	1.5	2.8	2.5	1.9	3.3	13.1	11.5	14.8	82.0	80.2	83.8
Metropolitan	2.8	2.5	3.3	2.7	2.3	3.1	13.1	12.3	14.0	80.8	79.8	81.8
Rural	2.6	2.0	3.3	1.3	1.1	1.6	11.7	10.5	13.0	83.9	82.5	85.2
Total	2.8	2.5	3.1	2.3	2.0	2.6	12.7	12.0	13.5	81.7	80.9	82.5
Persons												
Barwon-South Western	2.1*	1.3	3.5	1.5*	1.0	2.4	10.4	8.4	12.9	85.5	82.7	87.8
Eastern Metropolitan	2.3	1.8	2.9	2.7	2.1	3.6	14.1	12.5	15.8	80.1	78.2	81.9
Gippsland	3.1	2.2	4.4	1.5*	0.8	2.9	13.1	11.3	15.1	82.0	79.6	84.1
Grampians	2.3	1.8	3.0	1.8	1.2	2.7	11.9	10.3	13.8	83.2	81.1	85.1
Hume	2.3	1.8	3.0	1.6	1.1	2.3	13.7	12.0	15.7	81.8	79.8	83.7
Loddon Mallee	2.2	1.7	2.9	1.9	1.2	2.9	11.4	9.9	13.1	84.2	82.2	85.9
North and West Metropolitan	3.4	2.9	4.0	3.0	2.5	3.6	15.0	14.0	16.2	77.9	76.6	79.1
Southern Metropolitan	2.2	1.7	2.8	2.7	2.1	3.3	13.9	12.6	15.3	80.6	79.0	82.0
Metropolitan	2.7	2.4	3.0	2.8	2.5	3.2	14.3	13.6	15.1	79.5	78.6	80.3
Rural	2.4	2.0	2.8	1.6	1.3	2.0	11.9	11.0	12.8	83.6	82.6	84.6
Total	2.6	2.3	2.8	2.5	2.2	2.8	13.7	13.1	14.3	80.6	79.9	81.3

Metropolitan and rural regions are identified by colour as follows: metropolitan / rural.

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

* Estimate has a relative standard error between 25 and 50 per cent and should be interpreted with caution.

Table 8.17 shows slightly more than half (50.2 per cent) of persons surveyed felt they could definitely get help from neighbours if needed, and a further 21.4 per cent of persons could get help from neighbours sometimes. Compared with the situation of getting help from family and friends when needed, stronger metropolitan–rural differences were evident in the proportion of persons who reported they were able to get help from neighbours. Almost six in 10 persons living in rural areas (57.8 per cent) reported they could definitely get help from neighbours, compared with 47.6 per cent of those living in the metropolitan area.

The proportion of males who could definitely get help when needed was highest in the Barwon–South Western region (62.5 per cent) and lowest in the North and West Metropolitan region (45.8 per cent). Across the three metropolitan regions, the proportion of males who could definitely get help from neighbours was similar (50.0 per cent, 45.8 per cent and 47.2 per cent respectively).

Among females, the proportion of individuals who could get help from neighbours if needed ranged from 45.8 per cent in the North and West Metropolitan region to 61.0 per cent in the Hume region. The proportion of females who could get help from neighbours was above the Victorian average (50.3 per cent) for those living in each of the rural regions.

The proportion of males (19.7 per cent) and females (20.5 per cent) in the North and West Metropolitan region who could not get help from neighbours was higher than the average for Victoria (16.6 per cent and 17.1 per cent respectively), but similar to the average for the metropolitan area (17.9 per cent and 18.3 per cent respectively).

Table 8.17: Able to get help from neighbours when needed, by sex and Department of Health region, 2008

Region	No, not at all			Not often			Sometimes			Yes, definitely		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males												
Barwon-South Western	11.5	7.8	16.5	4.3	2.8	6.6	18.1	14.2	22.9	62.5	56.1	68.4
Eastern Metropolitan	16.1	13.6	19.0	6.5	5.0	8.5	23.1	20.2	26.3	50.0	46.5	53.4
Gippsland	13.0	10.2	16.5	8.6	6.0	12.1	18.1	14.9	21.7	56.0	51.6	60.3
Grampians	12.3	9.6	15.5	7.8	5.5	10.9	19.8	16.3	23.9	55.6	51.5	59.5
Hume	12.5	10.2	15.2	6.7	4.9	9.0	21.0	17.9	24.4	57.2	53.8	60.6
Loddon Mallee	14.0	11.2	17.4	7.5	5.1	10.9	17.5	14.4	21.1	56.6	52.5	60.7
North and West Metropolitan	19.7	17.9	21.7	8.1	6.9	9.5	22.1	20.2	24.2	45.8	43.5	48.1
Southern Metropolitan	16.7	14.6	19.1	9.5	7.8	11.5	22.2	19.7	24.8	47.2	44.4	50.0
Metropolitan	17.9	16.7	19.3	8.1	7.2	9.1	22.2	20.8	23.6	47.4	45.8	49.0
Rural	12.5	11.0	14.2	6.7	5.7	8.0	18.9	17.1	20.7	58.0	55.7	60.3
Total	16.6	15.6	17.7	7.7	7.0	8.5	21.3	20.2	22.5	50.2	48.9	51.5
Females												
Barwon-South Western	12.3	9.7	15.5	5.9	3.9	8.8	22.9	18.7	27.7	56.3	51.5	61.0
Eastern Metropolitan	16.0	13.9	18.3	7.6	6.3	9.2	24.2	21.8	26.9	49.5	46.8	52.2
Gippsland	14.2	11.9	16.8	6.4	4.9	8.4	19.2	16.6	22.2	57.7	54.4	61.0
Grampians	13.4	11.2	16.0	6.4	5.0	8.1	18.0	15.0	21.4	59.2	55.4	62.9
Hume	13.1	11.3	15.0	5.9	4.6	7.6	17.7	15.6	20.0	61.0	58.2	63.7
Loddon Mallee	14.5	12.2	17.1	7.7	5.9	10.1	19.2	16.5	22.2	56.1	53.0	59.2
North and West Metropolitan	20.5	19.0	22.2	7.7	6.7	8.8	22.2	20.6	23.8	45.8	44.0	47.7
Southern Metropolitan	17.4	15.7	19.4	8.3	7.0	9.8	20.9	19.0	22.9	48.7	46.4	51.0
Metropolitan	18.3	17.3	19.4	7.9	7.1	8.6	22.3	21.2	23.4	47.7	46.5	49.0
Rural	13.5	12.4	14.7	6.4	5.6	7.4	19.7	18.2	21.4	57.8	56.0	59.5
Total	17.1	16.3	18.0	7.5	6.9	8.1	21.6	20.7	22.5	50.3	49.2	51.3
Persons												
Barwon-South Western	12.0	9.4	15.1	5.1	3.7	7.0	20.5	17.5	23.9	59.2	55.2	63.1
Eastern Metropolitan	16.1	14.4	17.9	7.1	6.0	8.3	23.7	21.7	25.7	49.7	47.5	52.0
Gippsland	13.8	11.9	16.0	7.5	5.9	9.4	18.6	16.5	20.9	56.7	53.9	59.4
Grampians	12.8	11.0	14.8	7.1	5.6	8.8	18.9	16.5	21.5	57.4	54.4	60.3
Hume	12.8	11.3	14.5	6.2	5.1	7.6	19.3	17.4	21.4	59.1	56.8	61.3
Loddon Mallee	14.2	12.3	16.4	7.6	6.0	9.6	18.3	16.2	20.6	56.4	53.8	59.0
North and West Metropolitan	20.2	19.0	21.5	7.8	7.1	8.7	22.2	20.9	23.5	45.8	44.3	47.3
Southern Metropolitan	17.2	15.8	18.7	8.8	7.7	10.1	21.5	19.9	23.1	48.0	46.1	49.8
Metropolitan	18.2	17.4	19.0	8.0	7.4	8.6	22.2	21.4	23.2	47.6	46.6	48.6
Rural	13.1	12.1	14.1	6.6	5.9	7.3	19.3	18.1	20.5	57.8	56.4	59.3
Total	16.9	16.3	17.6	7.6	7.1	8.1	21.4	20.7	22.2	50.2	49.4	51.1

Metropolitan and rural regions are identified by colour as follows: metropolitan / rural.

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

In addition to asking respondents whether they could get help from family, friends or neighbours when needed, the 2008 survey also considered situations in which an individual might seek help from other social and support networks.

Help with care in the case of an emergency

Table 8.18 shows the proportion of persons who could rely on a relative or a friend not living with them to care for them (or their children) in an emergency, by age group and sex. More than one in 10 persons in the age groups 45–54 years, 55–64 years and 65 years and over reported they could not rely on a friend or relative to care for them in the event of an emergency (11.1 per cent, 10.6 per cent and 12.2 per cent respectively).

Table 8.18: Help with emergency care, by age group and sex, 2008

Age group (years)	Yes			No		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males						
18–24 years	95.2	92.7	96.9	3.6	2.3	5.5
25–34 years	90.9	88.3	93.0	8.4	6.3	11.0
35–44 years	88.4	86.2	90.2	9.4	7.7	11.4
45–54 years	86.4	84.4	88.3	11.4	9.7	13.3
55–64 years	84.3	82.3	86.2	11.8	10.1	13.6
65+	81.1	79.2	82.8	13.6	12.1	15.2
Total	87.5	86.6	88.3	9.9	9.2	10.7
Females						
18–24 years	94.8	92.5	96.5	4.8	3.2	7.1
25–34 years	93.0	91.4	94.3	5.6	4.5	7.0
35–44 years	91.2	89.9	92.3	6.9	5.9	8.0
45–54 years	87.1	85.5	88.6	10.8	9.4	12.3
55–64 years	87.4	85.9	88.8	9.4	8.2	10.7
65+	84.4	83.0	85.7	11.1	10.0	12.3
Total	89.5	88.9	90.1	8.2	7.7	8.8
Persons						
18–24 years	95.0	93.4	96.3	4.2	3.1	5.6
25–34 years	92.0	90.5	93.2	7.0	5.8	8.4
35–44 years	89.8	88.6	90.9	8.1	7.2	9.2
45–54 years	86.8	85.5	88.0	11.1	10.0	12.3
55–64 years	85.9	84.7	87.1	10.6	9.5	11.7
65+	82.9	81.8	84.0	12.2	11.3	13.2
Total	88.5	88.0	89.0	9.1	8.6	9.5

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are crude estimates, except for the totals, which represent the estimates for Victoria and have been age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: **above Victoria** / **below Victoria**.

The proportion of persons who could rely on a friend or relative to care for them or their children in the event of an emergency remained constant between 2002 and 2008 (table 8.19).

Table 8.19: Help with emergency care, 2002–2008

Could one of your relatives or friends care for you (or your children) in an emergency?	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Per cent						
Yes	94.4	92.4	92.7	90.5	92.7	92.1	88.5
No	5.6	4.9	5.5	7.7	5.5	6.1	9.1

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Ordinary least squares regression was used to test for trends over time.

Table 8.20 shows most people (88.5 per cent) reported having someone who could provide care in the event of an emergency. A higher proportion of persons living in rural areas (90.5 per cent) had a relative or friend who could care for them (or their children) in an emergency, compared with those from the metropolitan area (87.8 per cent). The proportion of persons who could get emergency care via a friend or relative was higher than the average for Victoria (88.5 per cent) for persons living in the Barwon–South Western region (92.2 per cent) and in the Loddon Mallee region (91.1 per cent).

More than nine in 10 rural females (91.4 per cent) could get care in an emergency, compared with 88.8 per cent of those living in the metropolitan area. A higher proportion of rural males (89.6 per cent) reported being able to get care in an emergency, compared with those from the metropolitan area (86.8 per cent).

Table 8.20: Help with emergency care, by sex and Department of Health region, 2008

Region	Yes			No		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males						
Barwon-South Western	92.5	90.2	94.3	6.4	4.7	8.6
Eastern Metropolitan	88.2	85.8	90.3	9.4	7.5	11.7
Gippsland	86.9	83.9	89.4	9.6	7.4	12.3
Grampians	87.8	84.5	90.4	9.1	7.0	11.8
Hume	88.2	86.1	90.0	9.5	7.9	11.3
Loddon Mallee	91.0	89.1	92.7	7.5	5.9	9.3
North and West Metropolitan	86.3	84.7	87.8	10.4	9.1	11.8
Southern Metropolitan	86.0	83.9	87.9	11.7	9.9	13.7
Metropolitan	86.8	85.7	87.8	10.5	9.6	11.5
Rural	89.6	88.5	90.6	8.2	7.3	9.2
Total	87.5	86.6	88.3	9.9	9.2	10.7
Females						
Barwon-South Western	92.0	89.4	94.0	6.8	4.9	9.4
Eastern Metropolitan	89.9	88.4	91.3	7.7	6.5	9.1
Gippsland	91.5	90.0	92.9	6.5	5.4	7.8
Grampians	91.3	89.7	92.7	7.1	5.9	8.6
Hume	91.0	89.5	92.3	7.4	6.1	8.8
Loddon Mallee	91.1	89.5	92.5	7.6	6.3	9.1
North and West Metropolitan	87.3	86.0	88.5	9.6	8.6	10.8
Southern Metropolitan	89.8	88.4	91.0	8.2	7.1	9.5
Metropolitan	88.8	88.1	89.6	8.6	7.9	9.3
Rural	91.4	90.5	92.2	7.1	6.3	8.0
Total	89.5	88.9	90.1	8.2	7.7	8.8
Persons						
Barwon-South Western	92.2	90.5	93.6	6.7	5.3	8.4
Eastern Metropolitan	89.1	87.7	90.4	8.5	7.3	9.8
Gippsland	89.2	87.6	90.7	8.0	6.7	9.5
Grampians	89.7	87.9	91.3	8.0	6.8	9.5
Hume	89.6	88.4	90.8	8.4	7.4	9.6
Loddon Mallee	91.1	89.9	92.2	7.5	6.4	8.7
North and West Metropolitan	86.9	85.9	87.8	10.0	9.1	10.9
Southern Metropolitan	87.9	86.7	89.1	9.9	8.8	11.1
Metropolitan	87.8	87.2	88.5	9.5	8.9	10.1
Rural	90.5	89.8	91.2	7.6	7.0	8.3
Total	88.5	88.0	89.0	9.1	8.6	9.5

Metropolitan and rural regions are identified by colour as follows: metropolitan / rural.

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

Help finding a job

The 2008 survey also asked respondents aged less than 65 years whether they could find a job through family or friends. Table 8.21 shows the proportion of persons who said they could find a job through a family member or a friend, by age group and sex. Reporting that a relative or a friend may be able to help with finding a job was related to age. The table shows 80.3 per cent of persons aged 18–24 years said they could find a job through a family member or a friend, compared with slightly more than a third (34.1 per cent) of those aged 55–64 years. For all age groups (except 25–34 years), a higher proportion of males than females reported they could get help from family or friends to find a job.

Table 8.21: Able to get help from a relative or friend to find a job, by age group^(a) and sex, 2008

Age group (years)	Yes			No		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males						
18–24 years	86.0	82.6	88.8	10.3	8.0	13.3
25–34 years	65.1	61.2	68.8	26.9	23.5	30.6
35–44 years	57.2	54.2	60.1	33.2	30.4	36.1
45–54 years	47.2	44.4	50.0	39.9	37.2	42.7
55–64 years	38.4	35.9	41.1	49.8	47.2	52.5
65+	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	58.3	56.9	59.7	32.3	31.0	33.7
Females						
18–24 years	74.4	70.4	78.1	18.7	15.5	22.3
25–34 years	59.1	56.2	61.9	32.1	29.5	34.9
35–44 years	48.9	46.8	51.0	37.4	35.4	39.5
45–54 years	41.3	39.1	43.6	45.8	43.6	48.1
55–64 years	29.8	27.9	31.9	56.8	54.6	59.0
65+	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	50.4	49.3	51.6	38.4	37.2	39.5
Persons						
18–24 years	80.3	77.7	82.7	14.4	12.4	16.7
25–34 years	62.1	59.7	64.5	29.5	27.3	31.8
35–44 years	53.0	51.2	54.8	35.3	33.6	37.1
45–54 years	44.2	42.4	46.0	42.9	41.1	44.7
55–64 years	34.1	32.5	35.7	53.4	51.6	55.1
65+	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	54.3	53.4	55.3	35.3	34.5	36.2

(a) The question was asked only of persons aged 18–64 years.

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are crude estimates, except for the totals, which represent the estimates for Victoria and have been age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: **above Victoria** / **below Victoria**.

The proportion of working age persons who reported they could find a job through family or friends remained constant between 2003 and 2008 (table 8.22).

Table 8.22: Able to get help from a relative or friend to find a job, 2003–2008

Able to get help from a relative or friend to find a job	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Per cent					
Yes	42.7	51.9	55.5	54.5	54.4	54.3
No	30.9	38.3	35.2	35.8	35.4	35.3

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Ordinary least squares regression was used to test for trends over time.

Table 8.23 shows the proportion of persons aged 18–64 years who reported they could find a job through a family member or a friend, by sex and region. Over half (54.3 per cent) of all persons aged 18–64 years reported they could find a job through a relative or a friend in 2008. A higher proportion of males (58.3 per cent) than females (50.4 per cent) reported they could find a job through a family member or friend.

A higher proportion of persons aged 18–64 years living in rural areas (57.1 per cent) indicated they could find a job through a relative or a friend, compared with those living in the metropolitan area (53.4 per cent). A higher proportion of males living in rural areas (63.3 per cent) reported being able to find a job through a relative or a friend, compared with males living in the metropolitan area (56.6 per cent). No metropolitan–rural difference was evident in the proportions of females of working age who could find a job through a relative or a friend.

Table 8.23: Able to get help from a relative or friend to find a job, by sex and Department of Health region, 2008

Region	Yes			No		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males						
Barwon-South Western	68.7	62.8	74.1	23.5	18.8	28.8
Eastern Metropolitan	55.5	51.8	59.2	34.2	30.8	37.9
Gippsland	58.1	53.2	62.8	30.9	26.7	35.5
Grampians	58.3	53.2	63.1	33.4	28.8	38.2
Hume	64.0	60.2	67.5	27.1	24.0	30.3
Loddon Mallee	64.8	60.5	68.8	27.3	23.7	31.2
North and West Metropolitan	57.4	54.9	59.9	33.5	31.1	35.9
Southern Metropolitan	56.8	53.8	59.7	33.4	30.7	36.4
Metropolitan	56.6	54.9	58.4	33.7	32.1	35.3
Rural	63.3	61.0	65.6	28.0	26.0	30.1
Total	58.3	56.9	59.7	32.3	31.0	33.7
Females						
Barwon-South Western	49.9	44.4	55.3	39.3	34.1	44.8
Eastern Metropolitan	52.2	49.3	55.0	37.3	34.5	40.1
Gippsland	51.3	47.6	55.1	38.2	34.7	41.9
Grampians	50.2	45.7	54.6	41.1	36.9	45.5
Hume	54.8	51.9	57.7	36.5	33.9	39.2
Loddon Mallee	49.1	45.4	52.7	41.8	38.3	45.4
North and West Metropolitan	48.6	46.6	50.6	39.1	37.2	41.1
Southern Metropolitan	51.2	48.6	53.7	37.0	34.6	39.5
Metropolitan	50.2	48.8	51.6	38.0	36.7	39.4
Rural	50.9	48.9	53.0	39.5	37.5	41.5
Total	50.4	49.3	51.6	38.4	37.2	39.5
Persons						
Barwon-South Western	59.3	55.0	63.4	31.5	27.7	35.5
Eastern Metropolitan	53.8	51.5	56.2	35.8	33.5	38.1
Gippsland	54.8	51.7	57.8	34.5	31.7	37.5
Grampians	54.1	50.8	57.5	37.2	34.1	40.5
Hume	59.4	57.0	61.7	31.8	29.8	33.9
Loddon Mallee	56.8	53.9	59.7	34.7	32.0	37.4
North and West Metropolitan	53.0	51.4	54.6	36.3	34.8	37.9
Southern Metropolitan	54.0	52.0	55.9	35.2	33.4	37.1
Metropolitan	53.4	52.3	54.5	35.9	34.8	36.9
Rural	57.1	55.5	58.7	33.8	32.3	35.3
Total	54.3	53.4	55.3	35.3	34.5	36.2

Metropolitan and rural regions are identified by colour as follows: metropolitan / rural.

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

Getting help from a volunteer organisation

Many volunteer organisations seek to address human, environmental and social needs within the community. An important principle of volunteering is respecting the rights, dignity and culture of those who are afforded material or other assistance. The 2008 survey asked respondents whether they currently received any help from volunteer organisations.

Table 8.24 shows the proportion of persons who reported they received help from volunteer organisations, by age group and sex. Similar proportions of people received such help in the age groups 18–24 years to 55–64 years. The proportion of persons who received such help was higher among those aged 65 years and over. Among males aged 65 years and over, 9.2 per cent received some help from a volunteer organisation. More than one in 10 (11.1 per cent) females in this age group received such help.

Table 8.24: Received help from a volunteer organisation, by age group and sex, 2008

Age group (years)	Yes			No		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males						
18–24 years	4.7	3.0	7.3	94.9	92.2	96.7
25–34 years	5.2	3.7	7.2	94.2	92.1	95.8
35–44 years	5.2	4.0	6.8	94.5	92.9	95.8
45–54 years	4.9	3.8	6.3	94.9	93.6	96.1
55–64 years	3.1	2.5	4.0	96.5	95.6	97.3
65+	9.2	8.0	10.5	90.5	89.1	91.7
Total	5.7	5.1	6.3	93.9	93.3	94.5
Females						
18–24 years	4.4	3.0	6.5	95.4	93.4	96.9
25–34 years	4.1	3.1	5.4	95.5	94.1	96.5
35–44 years	4.3	3.5	5.2	95.6	94.6	96.4
45–54 years	4.7	3.9	5.8	95.1	94.0	96.0
55–64 years	4.7	3.9	5.8	95.1	94.0	96.0
65+	11.1	10.0	12.3	88.4	87.2	89.6
Total	5.9	5.4	6.3	93.8	93.4	94.3
Persons						
18–24 years	4.5	3.4	6.1	95.2	93.6	96.4
25–34 years	4.6	3.7	5.8	94.8	93.6	95.8
35–44 years	4.7	4.0	5.6	95.0	94.1	95.8
45–54 years	4.8	4.1	5.6	95.0	94.2	95.7
55–64 years	4.0	3.4	4.6	95.8	95.1	96.4
65+	10.2	9.4	11.1	89.4	88.5	90.2
Total	5.8	5.4	6.2	93.9	93.5	94.2

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are crude estimates, except for the totals, which represent the estimates for Victoria and have been age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: **above Victoria** / **below Victoria**.

The proportion of persons who reported currently receiving help from a volunteer organisation remained constant between 2002 and 2008 (table 8.25).

Table 8.25: Received help from a volunteer organisation, 2002–2008

Received help from a volunteer organisation	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Per cent						
Yes	7.8	7.9	7.0	4.6	5.6	5.3	5.8
No	91.6	91.8	92.7	95.1	94.0	94.4	93.9

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Ordinary least squares regression was used to test for trends over time.

Table 8.26 shows the proportion of persons who received help from volunteer organisations, by sex and region. More than one in 20 persons (5.8 per cent) received help from volunteer organisations. Table 8.26 indicates similar proportions of males, females and persons living in metropolitan and rural areas had received help from volunteer organisations.

Table 8.26: Received help from a volunteer organisation, by sex and Department of Health region, 2008

Region	Yes			No		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males						
Barwon-South Western	6.8	5.5	8.5	95.8	94.0	97.2
Eastern Metropolitan	6.5	4.9	8.7	93.1	90.9	94.8
Gippsland	5.6	4.9	6.4	92.9	90.4	94.8
Grampians	6.0	4.7	7.8	93.8	91.5	95.5
Hume	5.2	4.0	6.7	92.8	91.1	94.3
Loddon Mallee	5.6	4.6	6.7	93.6	91.7	95.0
North and West Metropolitan	4.0	2.7	5.9	94.0	92.8	95.0
Southern Metropolitan	6.9	5.1	9.5	94.5	92.9	95.7
Metropolitan	6.0	4.3	8.3	94.0	93.1	94.7
Rural	5.8	5.1	6.7	93.9	93.0	94.7
Total	5.7	5.1	6.3	93.9	93.3	94.5
Females						
Barwon-South Western	6.8	5.8	8.0	94.0	92.1	95.4
Eastern Metropolitan	4.6	3.6	5.7	95.3	94.1	96.2
Gippsland	5.6	5.0	6.2	92.4	90.7	93.8
Grampians	6.6	5.5	7.9	93.0	91.5	94.3
Hume	6.5	5.4	7.8	92.9	91.8	93.9
Loddon Mallee	5.4	4.7	6.3	93.1	91.8	94.3
North and West Metropolitan	5.8	4.4	7.7	94.1	93.2	94.9
Southern Metropolitan	7.5	6.1	9.2	93.3	91.9	94.4
Metropolitan	6.4	5.2	7.8	94.1	93.5	94.7
Rural	6.5	5.9	7.2	93.2	92.5	93.8
Total	5.9	5.4	6.3	93.8	93.4	94.3
Persons						
Barwon-South Western	6.8	6.0	7.8	94.9	93.6	95.9
Eastern Metropolitan	5.6	4.6	6.8	94.1	92.9	95.2
Gippsland	5.6	5.2	6.1	92.5	91.0	93.8
Grampians	6.3	5.4	7.4	93.4	92.0	94.5
Hume	5.9	5.0	6.8	92.8	91.8	93.8
Loddon Mallee	5.5	4.9	6.2	93.3	92.2	94.2
North and West Metropolitan	4.9	3.9	6.2	94.0	93.3	94.7
Southern Metropolitan	7.3	6.1	8.8	93.9	92.9	94.7
Metropolitan	6.2	5.1	7.5	94.0	93.5	94.5
Rural	6.2	5.7	6.8	93.5	92.9	94.0
Total	5.8	5.4	6.2	93.9	93.5	94.2

Metropolitan and rural regions are identified by colour as follows: metropolitan / rural.

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

There are a range of support groups in which individuals support one another to deal with an issue they have in common, sometimes with the aid of a facilitator, counsellor or other professional. The 2008 survey asked respondents whether they had been to any support group meetings over the past two years.

Table 8.27 presents information about persons who had attended a support group meeting within the past two years, by age group and sex. The proportion of persons who had attended a support group meeting within the past two years did not differ by age group, however, females (10.8 per cent) were more likely than males (9.2 per cent) to report attending a support group meeting.

Table 8.27: Attended a support group meeting in the past two years, by age group and sex, 2008

Age group (years)	Yes			No		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males						
18–24 years	8.2	6.0	11.2	91.8	88.8	94.0
25–34 years	8.0	6.1	10.4	92.0	89.6	93.9
35–44 years	7.8	6.4	9.4	92.1	90.4	93.5
45–54 years	10.2	8.6	12.0	89.7	87.9	91.3
55–64 years	9.7	8.3	11.3	90.2	88.6	91.6
65+	11.7	10.4	13.3	88.1	86.5	89.5
Total	9.2	8.5	10.0	90.7	89.9	91.4
Females						
18–24 years	8.7	6.6	11.4	90.7	87.8	92.9
25–34 years	9.9	8.4	11.7	89.9	88.1	91.5
35–44 years	11.2	9.9	12.6	88.7	87.3	89.9
45–54 years	11.7	10.4	13.2	88.1	86.6	89.5
55–64 years	13.2	11.7	14.7	86.7	85.2	88.2
65+	10.5	9.5	11.6	89.3	88.1	90.3
Total	10.8	10.2	11.5	88.9	88.3	89.6
Persons						
18–24 years	8.5	6.9	10.4	91.2	89.2	92.9
25–34 years	9.0	7.7	10.4	91.0	89.5	92.2
35–44 years	9.5	8.5	10.6	90.3	89.3	91.3
45–54 years	10.9	9.9	12.1	88.9	87.7	90.0
55–64 years	11.4	10.4	12.5	88.5	87.4	89.5
65+	11.0	10.2	12.0	88.7	87.8	89.6
Total	10.0	9.5	10.5	89.8	89.3	90.3

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are crude estimates, except for the totals, which represent the estimates for Victoria and have been age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: **above Victoria** / **below Victoria**.

The proportion of persons who reported having attended a support group meeting in the past two years remained constant between 2002 and 2008 (table 8.28).

Table 8.28: Attended a support group meeting in the past two years, 2002–2008

Attended a support group meeting in the past two years	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Per cent						
Yes	11.8	10.0	9.8	9.5	10.6	10.1	10.0
No	88.1	89.8	90.2	90.4	89.3	89.8	89.8

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Ordinary least squares regression was used to test for trends over time.

Table 8.29 shows that a higher proportion of persons living in the metropolitan area (12.8 per cent) had attended a support group meeting in the past two years, compared with those living in rural areas (9.3 per cent). The proportion of persons who had attended a support group meeting in the past two years was higher than the average for Victoria (10.0 per cent) in three Department of Health regions: Southern Metropolitan (12.5 per cent), Barwon–South Western (12.3 per cent) and Grampians (11.7 per cent) regions.

The proportion of males from the Gippsland region (6.9 per cent) who had attended a support group meeting within the past two years was lower than the average for Victoria (9.2 per cent), but similar to the rural average (8.6 per cent).

Table 8.29: Attended a support group meeting in the past two years, by sex and Department of Health region, 2008

Region	Yes			No		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males						
Barwon-South Western	11.8	9.3	14.9	89.4	85.8	92.1
Eastern Metropolitan	7.9	6.4	9.6	89.4	87.0	91.4
Gippsland	6.9	5.7	8.4	88.2	85.1	90.7
Grampians	10.7	9.5	12.1	91.9	90.2	93.4
Hume	10.5	8.5	13.0	88.6	86.3	90.6
Loddon Mallee	8.6	7.4	10.0	88.3	85.3	90.7
North and West Metropolitan	10.5	7.8	14.0	91.2	89.8	92.4
Southern Metropolitan	11.5	9.1	14.5	93.0	91.5	94.3
Metropolitan	11.4	9.4	13.7	91.3	90.3	92.2
Rural	8.6	7.8	9.6	89.2	87.8	90.4
Total	9.2	8.5	10.0	90.7	89.9	91.4
Females						
Barwon-South Western	12.8	10.9	14.8	87.6	84.4	90.2
Eastern Metropolitan	10.9	9.4	12.6	89.3	87.6	90.9
Gippsland	10.9	9.5	12.4	87.0	85.0	88.9
Grampians	12.7	11.7	13.7	89.0	87.3	90.4
Hume	10.6	9.1	12.4	85.8	84.0	87.5
Loddon Mallee	9.0	8.0	10.1	86.4	84.4	88.2
North and West Metropolitan	12.2	9.6	15.3	90.6	89.4	91.6
Southern Metropolitan	13.5	11.7	15.6	89.0	87.5	90.4
Metropolitan	14.1	12.5	15.9	89.7	88.9	90.4
Rural	10.1	9.3	10.9	87.2	86.1	88.2
Total	10.8	10.2	11.5	88.9	88.3	89.6
Persons						
Barwon-South Western	12.3	10.7	14.1	88.5	86.1	90.5
Eastern Metropolitan	9.4	8.4	10.6	89.4	87.9	90.7
Gippsland	8.9	8.0	10.0	87.6	85.8	89.2
Grampians	11.7	10.9	12.5	90.4	89.3	91.5
Hume	10.6	9.3	12.0	87.2	85.7	88.5
Loddon Mallee	8.8	8.0	9.7	87.3	85.6	88.9
North and West Metropolitan	11.3	9.3	13.7	90.9	90.0	91.7
Southern Metropolitan	12.5	11.0	14.3	91.0	89.9	92.0
Metropolitan	12.8	11.5	14.2	90.5	89.9	91.1
Rural	9.3	8.8	10.0	88.2	87.3	89.0
Total	10.0	9.5	10.5	89.8	89.3	90.3

Metropolitan and rural regions are identified by colour as follows: metropolitan / rural.

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

Trust and safety

Trust is important for positive relationships between individuals and among groups. Trust in others is sometimes defined with reference to the type of relationship involved. The concept of interpersonal trust refers to trust between individuals who are known to one another. To describe social wellbeing, social trust (which refers to trust among casual acquaintances or strangers in everyday social interaction) is sometimes distinguished from civic trust (which refers to trust in public or high-profile institutions, and the respect that citizens are accorded in their relationships with institutions). The 2008 survey included indicators of social and civic trust.

Feelings of trust

Table 8.30 shows the proportion of persons who agreed most people can be trusted, by age group and sex. A higher proportion of males in older age groups, compared with those in younger age groups, agreed most people can be trusted. Less than a third (27.5 per cent) of males aged 18–24 years agreed definitely most people can be trusted, compared with more than half (50.2 per cent) of males aged 65 years and over.

A higher proportion of males (41.4 per cent), compared with females (33.8 per cent), agreed definitely most people can be trusted.

This difference between males and females was greatest for persons aged 65 years and over, with 50.2 per cent of males compared with 39.9 per cent of females agreeing definitely that most people can be trusted.

Table 8.30: Feelings of trust, by age group and sex, 2008

Age group (years)	Most people can be trusted...											
	No, not at all			Not often			Sometimes			Yes, definitely		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males												
18–24 years	10.3	7.8	13.6	13.6	10.6	17.3	48.4	43.6	53.2	27.5	23.6	31.8
25–34 years	10.2	7.7	13.4	13.0	10.4	16.3	41.8	37.9	45.7	34.5	30.8	38.3
35–44 years	7.5	6.1	9.1	10.1	8.3	12.2	40.3	37.4	43.3	40.3	37.4	43.3
45–54 years	8.3	6.9	10.0	8.6	7.1	10.4	35.8	33.1	38.5	45.7	42.9	48.5
55–64 years	7.5	6.2	9.1	10.0	8.5	11.9	33.4	31.0	36.0	47.8	45.1	50.5
65+	7.6	6.5	8.9	8.4	7.2	9.8	31.3	29.2	33.4	50.2	47.9	52.5
Total	8.4	7.7	9.3	10.6	9.7	11.5	38.2	36.9	39.5	41.4	40.1	42.7
Females												
18–24 years	12.2	9.7	15.3	16.0	13.0	19.7	50.6	46.2	55.1	21.0	17.6	24.9
25–34 years	10.9	9.3	12.8	13.9	11.9	16.0	47.1	44.2	50.0	26.8	24.3	29.4
35–44 years	9.8	8.7	11.2	12.2	10.8	13.8	43.6	41.5	45.7	33.2	31.3	35.2
45–54 years	10.0	8.7	11.5	9.5	8.2	10.9	40.0	37.8	42.3	39.8	37.6	42.0
55–64 years	9.4	8.2	10.7	10.1	8.8	11.5	38.9	36.8	41.1	40.2	38.1	42.3
65+	10.0	8.8	11.2	10.0	8.8	11.2	36.0	34.2	37.9	39.9	38.1	41.8
Total	10.4	9.7	11.1	11.8	11.1	12.6	42.4	41.3	43.4	33.8	32.8	34.8
Persons												
18–24 years	11.3	9.4	13.4	14.8	12.6	17.3	49.5	46.2	52.8	24.3	21.6	27.1
25–34 years	10.6	9.0	12.3	13.4	11.8	15.3	44.4	42.0	46.9	30.6	28.4	33.0
35–44 years	8.7	7.8	9.7	11.2	10.0	12.4	42.0	40.2	43.8	36.7	35.0	38.5
45–54 years	9.2	8.2	10.3	9.0	8.1	10.1	37.9	36.2	39.7	42.7	40.9	44.5
55–64 years	8.5	7.6	9.5	10.1	9.0	11.2	36.2	34.6	37.9	44.0	42.3	45.7
65+	8.9	8.1	9.8	9.3	8.4	10.2	33.9	32.5	35.3	44.5	43.1	46.0
Total	9.4	8.9	10.0	11.2	10.6	11.8	40.4	39.5	41.2	37.5	36.7	38.3

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are crude estimates, except for the totals, which represent the estimates for Victoria and have been age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

Table 8.31 shows the proportions of persons who agreed, or did not agree, most people can be trusted, between 2001 and 2008. The proportion of persons who agreed definitely most people can be trusted increased from 28.6 per cent in 2001 to 37.5 per cent in 2008.

Table 8.31: Feelings of trust, 2001–2008

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Most people can be trusted	Per cent							
Not at all	16.4	16.4	11.7	12.0	9.3	9.5	7.3	9.4
Not often	11.9	8.6	8.9	11.3	8.7	9.5	9.2	11.2
Sometimes	43.2	43.0	43.3	39.5	44.2	41.3	47.1	40.4
Yes, definitely	28.6	31.9	36.1	36.7	36.5	38.4	34.8	37.5

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Ordinary least squares regression was used to test for trends over time.

The data in table 8.32 provide a regional perspective on feelings of trust. A higher proportion of persons living in rural areas (41.6 per cent) agreed definitely most people can be trusted, compared with those living in the metropolitan area (36.0 per cent). This metropolitan–rural difference was reflected in the proportions of males and females who agreed definitely most people can be trusted. More than a third of rural females (37.3 per cent) agreed definitely most people can be trusted, compared with 32.5 per cent of females living in the metropolitan area. Similarly, 46.1 per cent of rural males agreed definitely most people can be trusted, compared with 39.7 per cent of males in the metropolitan area.

The proportion of persons who agreed definitely most people can be trusted was higher than the average for Victoria (37.5 per cent) in four Department of Health regions: the Barwon–South Western (43.4 per cent), Loddon Mallee (42.6 per cent), Grampians (41.7 per cent) and Hume (40.6 per cent) regions.

Table 8.32: Feelings of trust, by sex and Department of Health region, 2008

Region	Most people can be trusted...											
	No, not at all			Not often			Sometimes			Yes, definitely		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males												
Barwon-South Western	9.2	5.8	14.4	13.9	9.4	20.0	28.2	24.0	32.8	47.7	41.6	53.8
Eastern Metropolitan	6.7	5.1	8.8	10.0	8.0	12.4	39.9	36.5	43.4	41.9	38.6	45.3
Gippsland	9.4	7.0	12.5	10.9	8.1	14.6	36.3	32.0	40.8	42.4	38.4	46.6
Grampians	8.7	6.2	12.0	7.6	5.6	10.2	37.5	33.3	41.9	45.4	41.3	49.6
Hume	11.0	8.6	14.0	7.0	5.4	8.8	37.3	33.8	40.9	44.0	40.4	47.6
Loddon Mallee	8.5	6.3	11.3	7.1	5.2	9.5	34.1	30.2	38.3	49.8	45.6	54.0
North and West Metropolitan	9.5	8.3	11.0	11.8	10.2	13.6	39.5	37.2	41.8	37.7	35.5	40.0
Southern Metropolitan	7.4	6.0	9.2	11.0	9.3	13.0	39.8	36.9	42.7	40.0	37.3	42.8
Metropolitan	8.1	7.3	9.1	11.1	10.0	12.2	39.6	38.0	41.2	39.7	38.1	41.2
Rural	9.4	7.8	11.3	9.6	8.0	11.6	34.0	32.0	36.1	46.1	43.8	48.4
Total	8.4	7.7	9.3	10.6	9.7	11.5	38.2	36.9	39.5	41.4	40.1	42.7
Females												
Barwon-South Western	5.8	4.2	8.1	13.7	10.4	18.0	40.4	35.9	45.1	39.6	35.4	43.9
Eastern Metropolitan	8.7	7.2	10.6	10.6	9.0	12.5	42.3	39.6	45.1	36.7	34.1	39.3
Gippsland	9.3	7.4	11.5	11.6	9.5	14.0	42.6	39.4	46.0	35.2	32.3	38.2
Grampians	10.4	8.4	12.7	10.0	7.7	12.8	40.3	36.5	44.2	38.2	34.4	42.0
Hume	8.9	7.4	10.7	10.0	8.3	11.9	42.5	39.8	45.3	37.5	35.0	40.1
Loddon Mallee	11.2	9.3	13.4	11.4	9.3	13.8	41.2	38.0	44.4	35.8	33.1	38.6
North and West Metropolitan	13.0	11.8	14.3	13.2	11.9	14.5	43.6	41.7	45.5	27.8	26.2	29.5
Southern Metropolitan	10.4	9.0	12.0	11.9	10.4	13.6	42.0	39.7	44.3	34.0	31.9	36.2
Metropolitan	11.0	10.2	11.8	12.0	11.1	12.9	42.7	41.4	44.0	32.5	31.3	33.7
Rural	8.8	8.0	9.8	11.7	10.4	13.2	41.3	39.6	43.1	37.3	35.7	38.9
Total	10.4	9.7	11.1	11.8	11.1	12.6	42.4	41.3	43.4	33.8	32.8	34.8
Persons												
Barwon-South Western	7.5	5.4	10.4	13.8	10.8	17.5	34.5	31.2	37.9	43.4	39.7	47.3
Eastern Metropolitan	7.8	6.6	9.1	10.4	9.0	11.9	41.0	38.8	43.3	39.3	37.2	41.4
Gippsland	9.4	7.8	11.2	11.3	9.5	13.4	39.6	36.9	42.4	38.6	36.1	41.1
Grampians	9.5	7.8	11.5	8.8	7.2	10.7	39.0	36.1	41.9	41.7	38.9	44.6
Hume	10.0	8.5	11.8	8.5	7.3	9.8	39.9	37.7	42.2	40.6	38.4	42.9
Loddon Mallee	9.9	8.4	11.6	9.3	7.8	11.0	37.7	35.2	40.4	42.6	40.0	45.2
North and West Metropolitan	11.3	10.4	12.3	12.5	11.4	13.6	41.6	40.1	43.1	32.6	31.2	34.0
Southern Metropolitan	9.0	7.9	10.1	11.4	10.3	12.7	40.9	39.1	42.8	37.0	35.2	38.7
Metropolitan	9.6	9.0	10.2	11.5	10.9	12.3	41.1	40.1	42.2	36.0	35.0	36.9
Rural	9.1	8.2	10.1	10.7	9.6	11.9	37.8	36.4	39.2	41.6	40.2	43.0
Total	9.4	8.9	10.0	11.2	10.6	11.8	40.4	39.5	41.2	37.5	36.7	38.3

Metropolitan and rural regions are identified by colour as follows: metropolitan / rural.

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

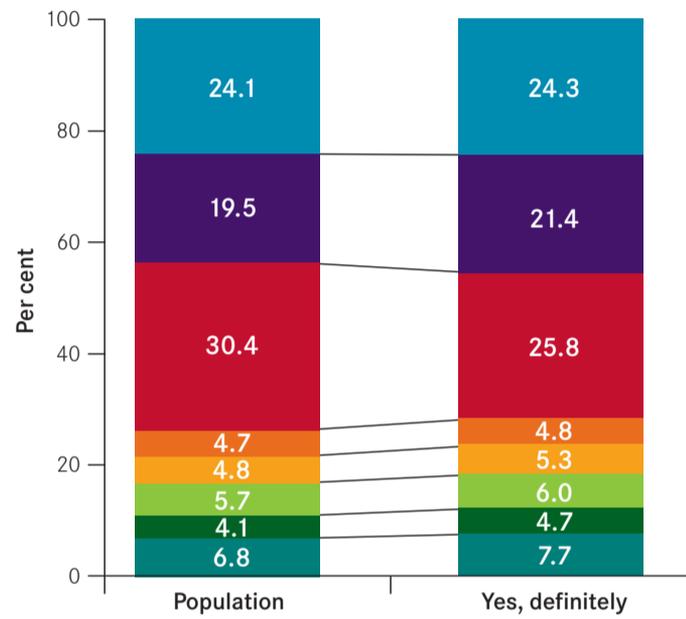
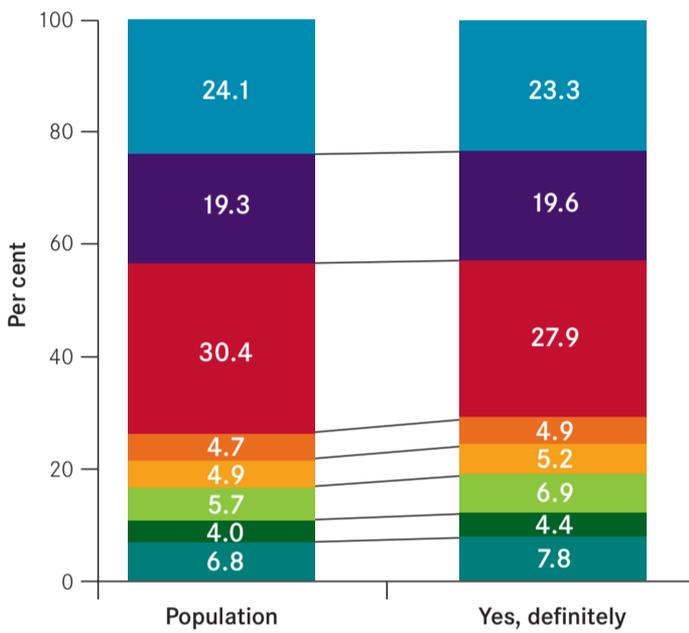
Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

Figures 8.3a and 8.3b show the geographic distribution, by Department of Health region, of males and females who agreed definitely that most people can be trusted, compared with the Victorian population. In most regions, the proportion of males and females who agreed definitely most people can be trusted was consistent with their respective proportions of the population—for example, almost a fifth of the males (19.6 per cent) who agreed most people can be trusted lived in the Eastern Metropolitan region, and almost a fifth (19.3 per cent) of the male population lived in this region. As a proportion of all females who agreed most people can be trusted, females from the North and West Metropolitan region were underrepresented relative to their population share (25.8 per cent and 30.4 per cent respectively).

Figure 8.3a: Geographic distribution, by Department of Health region, of males who agreed that most people can be trusted and the Victorian population, 2008

Figure 8.3b: Geographic distribution, by Department of Health region, of females who agreed that most people can be trusted and the Victorian population, 2008



- Metropolitan**
- Southern Metropolitan
- Eastern Metropolitan
- North and West Metropolitan
- Rural**
- Gippsland
- Hume
- Grampians
- Grampians
- Barwon-South Western

Opportunities to have a say

Civic trust in populations can be measured by the extent to which individuals feel they have an opportunity to have a say and feel valued by the society to which they belong. The 2008 survey collected information on whether respondents felt they had opportunities to have a real say on issues that are important to them.

Table 8.33 shows the proportion of persons who felt there was an opportunity to have a say about issues that mattered to them, by age group and sex. While 42.3 per cent of persons felt they definitely had such an opportunity, more than one in 10 persons (12.3 per cent) felt they definitely did not have an opportunity.

Similar proportions of males and females within each age group definitely felt there was an opportunity to have a say on matters they regarded as important. A higher proportion of persons aged 65 years and over (45.0 per cent) reported a positive response, compared with persons aged 18-24 years (35.9 per cent).

Table 8.33: Opportunities to have a say, by age group and sex, 2008

Age group (years)	No, not at all			Not often			Sometimes			Yes, definitely		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males												
18-24 years	11.1	8.4	14.7	11.7	9.1	15.0	39.7	35.1	44.5	36.1	31.7	40.8
25-34 years	13.1	10.7	15.8	11.7	9.4	14.5	33.4	29.7	37.3	39.8	35.9	43.9
35-44 years	12.9	11.0	15.0	10.9	9.2	12.9	30.1	27.4	32.9	44.0	41.1	47.0
45-54 years	13.9	12.0	15.9	11.2	9.5	13.1	28.2	25.7	30.8	44.7	41.9	47.5
55-64 years	4.2	12.5	16.2	10.2	8.7	12.0	24.2	22.0	26.6	49.7	47.1	52.4
65+	16.0	14.4	17.8	9.6	8.3	11.0	23.8	21.9	25.7	45.4	43.2	47.7
Total	13.6	12.7	14.5	10.9	10.1	11.8	29.8	28.5	31.1	43.2	41.8	44.5
Females												
18-24 years	11.1	8.5	14.2	14.3	11.5	17.7	36.9	32.7	41.3	35.7	31.6	40.0
25-34 years	9.7	8.2	11.6	10.2	8.5	12.2	39.4	36.7	42.3	37.2	34.4	40.0
35-44 years	10.9	9.6	12.4	10.2	9.0	11.6	36.2	34.2	38.3	40.1	38.0	42.2
45-54 years	10.8	9.5	12.3	10.4	9.1	11.9	31.7	29.6	33.8	44.6	42.4	46.9
55-64 years	10.2	9.0	11.6	9.6	8.4	10.9	28.7	26.8	30.7	48.0	45.8	50.2
65+	12.8	11.5	14.1	7.6	6.6	8.6	27.4	25.7	29.2	44.7	42.8	46.6
Total	11.0	10.4	11.7	10.3	9.6	11.0	33.4	32.4	34.5	41.6	40.5	42.6
Persons												
18-24 years	11.1	9.2	13.4	13.0	11.0	15.3	38.3	35.2	41.5	35.9	32.8	39.1
25-34 years	11.4	10.0	13.0	11.0	9.5	12.6	36.4	34.1	38.8	38.5	36.1	41.0
35-44 years	11.9	10.7	13.1	10.6	9.5	11.7	33.2	31.5	34.9	42.0	40.2	43.9
45-54 years	12.3	11.2	13.6	10.8	9.7	12.0	30.0	28.3	31.6	44.7	42.9	46.5
55-64 years	12.2	11.1	13.4	9.9	8.9	11.0	26.5	25.0	28.0	48.9	47.1	50.6
65+	14.2	13.2	15.3	8.5	7.7	9.3	25.8	24.5	27.1	45.0	43.6	46.5
Total	12.3	11.7	12.9	10.6	10.0	11.1	31.7	30.8	32.5	42.3	41.5	43.2

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are crude estimates, except for the totals, which represent the estimates for Victoria and have been age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

Table 8.34 shows the proportion over time of persons who agreed, or did not agree, there were opportunities to have a say about issues that were important. The proportion of persons who agreed definitely there were opportunities to have a say remained constant between 2001 and 2008.

Table 8.34: Opportunities to have a say, 2001–2008

Opportunities to have a say	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Per cent							
Not at all	15.1	13.8	14.5	13.8	12.8	13.4	11.7	12.3
Not often	14.9	12.6	10.6	11.5	12.4	11.7	12.1	10.6
Sometimes	33.8	34.0	32.8	26.4	33.7	29.7	34.6	31.7
Yes, definitely	36.2	39.4	42.0	45.9	38.9	43.0	38.7	42.3

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Ordinary least squares regression was used to test for trends over time.

Table 8.35 shows the proportion of persons who felt there was an opportunity to have a say about issues that mattered to them, by region and sex. A higher proportion of persons living in rural areas (46.9 per cent) felt they had such an opportunity, compared with those living in the metropolitan area (40.6 per cent).

Among females, the proportion who felt they definitely had an opportunity to have a say on things that matter was above the average for Victoria (41.6 per cent) in two of the five rural regions—Gippsland (46.0 per cent) and Loddon Mallee (45.9 per cent)—and below the average in the North and West Metropolitan region (36.8 per cent). A higher proportion of males from the Grampians (52.0 per cent), Barwon—South Western (51.3 per cent) and Loddon Mallee (49.0 per cent) regions reported they definitely had an opportunity, compared with the average for Victoria (43.2 per cent).

Table 8.35: Opportunities to have a say, by sex and Department of Health region, 2008

Region	No, not at all			Not often			Sometimes			Yes, definitely		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males												
Barwon-South Western	10.5	8.0	13.7	12.2	8.2	17.7	23.6	19.2	28.7	51.3	45.0	57.5
Eastern Metropolitan	13.1	10.9	15.6	11.3	9.2	13.7	31.2	28.0	34.6	42.6	39.3	46.0
Gippsland	15.4	12.4	19.0	11.8	9.4	14.7	29.2	25.3	33.5	41.8	37.8	46.0
Grampians	12.5	9.9	15.6	7.3	5.7	9.4	27.3	23.5	31.4	52.0	47.6	56.4
Hume	13.2	11.0	15.8	11.3	9.0	14.1	28.0	24.7	31.4	46.4	43.0	49.8
Loddon Mallee	13.1	10.7	15.9	11.9	9.2	15.2	23.8	20.2	27.9	49.0	44.8	53.2
North and West Metropolitan	14.9	13.3	16.7	11.0	9.6	12.5	29.9	27.8	32.1	40.4	38.1	42.7
Southern Metropolitan	13.1	11.2	15.1	10.9	9.2	12.8	32.5	29.7	35.4	41.0	38.2	44.0
Metropolitan	13.9	12.8	15.1	11.0	10.0	12.0	31.0	29.5	32.6	41.3	39.7	42.9
Rural	12.8	11.5	14.2	11.0	9.5	12.7	26.1	24.1	28.2	48.4	46.0	50.7
Total	13.6	12.7	14.5	10.9	10.1	11.8	29.8	28.5	31.1	43.2	41.8	44.5
Females												
Barwon-South Western	8.8	6.5	11.8	10.7	7.8	14.6	31.9	27.5	36.7	45.6	41.1	50.2
Eastern Metropolitan	10.4	8.7	12.4	10.9	9.2	12.8	35.2	32.5	38.0	40.2	37.5	42.9
Gippsland	11.5	9.3	14.1	9.8	7.8	12.3	30.1	27.1	33.2	46.0	42.9	49.2
Grampians	8.8	7.1	10.8	9.9	7.9	12.4	33.2	29.7	36.9	46.0	42.3	49.8
Hume	11.0	9.3	13.0	9.2	7.7	11.0	32.8	30.3	35.5	44.9	42.2	47.5
Loddon Mallee	9.7	8.0	11.7	10.2	8.3	12.6	32.8	29.9	35.9	45.9	42.8	49.0
North and West Metropolitan	12.4	11.3	13.7	10.3	9.2	11.5	34.8	33.0	36.6	36.8	35.0	38.7
Southern Metropolitan	11.4	10.0	13.0	10.2	8.8	11.9	31.6	29.5	33.9	43.2	40.9	45.5
Metropolitan	11.4	10.6	12.3	10.4	9.6	11.3	33.9	32.7	35.1	40.0	38.7	41.3
Rural	9.9	8.9	11.0	10.0	8.8	11.2	32.3	30.6	34.1	45.5	43.8	47.2
Total	11.0	10.4	11.7	10.3	9.6	11.0	33.4	32.4	34.5	41.6	40.5	42.6
Persons												
Barwon-South Western	9.7	7.9	11.9	11.4	8.7	14.7	27.7	24.4	31.3	48.5	44.5	52.5
Eastern Metropolitan	11.6	10.2	13.2	11.1	9.7	12.6	33.3	31.2	35.5	41.4	39.3	43.6
Gippsland	13.4	11.5	15.6	10.7	9.0	12.6	29.7	27.2	32.4	43.9	41.4	46.5
Grampians	10.6	9.0	12.4	8.5	7.2	10.1	30.4	27.7	33.3	48.9	46.0	51.9
Hume	12.1	10.7	13.7	10.3	8.8	12.0	30.4	28.2	32.6	45.6	43.4	47.8
Loddon Mallee	11.3	9.8	13.0	11.1	9.4	13.0	28.4	26.0	30.9	47.5	44.8	50.1
North and West Metropolitan	13.7	12.7	14.8	10.6	9.7	11.6	32.4	31.0	33.9	38.4	37.0	39.9
Southern Metropolitan	12.2	11.0	13.4	10.5	9.4	11.8	32.0	30.3	33.9	42.2	40.3	44.0
Metropolitan	12.6	12.0	13.3	10.7	10.0	11.3	32.5	31.5	33.5	40.6	39.6	41.6
Rural	11.3	10.5	12.2	10.5	9.5	11.5	29.3	27.9	30.6	46.9	45.5	48.4
Total	12.3	11.7	12.9	10.6	10.0	11.1	31.7	30.8	32.5	42.3	41.5	43.2

Metropolitan and rural regions are identified by colour as follows: metropolitan / rural.

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

Feeling valued by society

A second indicator of civic trust is the extent to which people feel they are valued by society. More than half of all persons (52.4 per cent) definitely felt they were valued by society. A further 29.1 per cent only sometimes felt they were valued by society (table 8.36).

Table 8.36: Feeling valued by society, by age group and sex, 2008

Age group (years)	No, not at all			Not often			Sometimes			Yes, definitely		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males												
18–24 years	6.2	4.4	8.6	4.3	2.7	6.7	36.9	32.4	41.7	49.6	44.8	54.4
25–34 years	9.0	6.8	11.8	4.3	3.1	5.8	31.3	27.7	35.1	51.9	47.8	55.8
35–44 years	6.3	5.0	7.9	4.6	3.5	6.0	28.7	26.0	31.4	54.6	51.6	57.5
45–54 years	7.4	6.1	8.9	4.8	3.7	6.1	27.1	24.7	29.7	54.7	51.9	57.4
55–64 years	9.6	8.1	11.5	5.1	4.0	6.4	24.5	22.3	26.9	54.7	52.1	57.4
65+	10.6	9.3	12.1	4.9	4.0	5.9	21.9	20.1	23.9	53.9	51.6	56.2
Total	8.3	7.6	9.1	4.7	4.1	5.2	28.2	27.0	29.5	53.2	51.8	54.6
Females												
18–24 years	5.2	3.6	7.4	8.4	6.2	11.3	41.3	37.0	45.7	42.1	37.7	46.5
25–34 years	5.3	4.2	6.6	5.5	4.4	7.0	32.1	29.5	34.8	52.9	50.0	55.8
35–44 years	6.3	5.3	7.5	5.7	4.8	6.8	30.4	28.5	32.4	52.6	50.5	54.7
45–54 years	6.6	5.6	7.6	4.6	3.7	5.5	28.7	26.7	30.8	55.3	53.1	57.6
55–64 years	7.7	6.7	9.0	3.9	3.2	4.8	25.3	23.4	27.2	57.0	54.9	59.1
65+	9.4	8.4	10.5	4.8	4.1	5.7	24.5	22.9	26.2	50.1	48.1	52.0
Total	6.9	6.4	7.4	5.4	4.9	5.9	30.1	29.1	31.1	51.7	50.6	52.7
Persons												
18–24 years	5.7	4.4	7.3	6.3	4.9	8.1	39.0	35.9	42.3	45.9	42.6	49.2
25–34 years	7.1	5.9	8.6	4.9	4.0	5.9	31.7	29.4	34.0	52.4	49.9	54.8
35–44 years	6.3	5.4	7.2	5.2	4.4	6.0	29.5	27.9	31.2	53.6	51.7	55.4
45–54 years	7.0	6.1	7.9	4.7	4.0	5.5	27.9	26.4	29.6	55.0	53.2	56.8
55–64 years	8.7	7.7	9.7	4.5	3.8	5.3	24.9	23.5	26.4	55.9	54.2	57.6
65+	10.0	9.1	10.9	4.8	4.3	5.5	23.4	22.1	24.6	51.8	50.3	53.2
Total	7.6	7.2	8.1	5.0	4.7	5.4	29.1	28.3	29.9	52.4	51.5	53.3

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are crude estimates, except for the total, which represent the estimates for Victoria and have been age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified as follows: **above Victoria** / **below Victoria**.

Table 8.37 shows the proportion of persons who agreed, or did not agree, they were valued by society, over time. The proportion of persons who agreed they were definitely valued remained constant between 2001 and 2008.

Table 8.37: Feeling valued by society, 2001–2008

Do you feel valued by society?	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Per cent							
Not at all	12.8	8.6	9.3	8.5	7.1	7.6	6.9	7.6
Not often	8.8	6.6	5.6	6.0	5.4	5.5	4.8	5.0
Sometimes	36.1	32.2	29.8	26.8	31.4	27.8	30.8	29.1
Yes, definitely	42.3	51.6	55.3	52.6	51.1	53.3	51.9	52.4

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Ordinary least squares regression was used to test for trends over time.

Table 8.38 provides data on persons who reported they felt valued by society, by region and sex. A higher proportion of males (56.2 per cent) living in rural areas definitely felt valued by society, compared with those living in the metropolitan area (52.0 per cent). No rural–metropolitan differences were evident among females in the proportion who definitely felt valued by society.

A higher proportion of persons (54.4 per cent) living in rural areas definitely felt valued by society, compared with persons living in the metropolitan area (51.6 per cent). Across the Department of Health regions, there were no differences in the proportion of males, females or persons who definitely felt valued by society, compared with the corresponding averages for Victoria (53.2 per cent, 51.7 per cent and 52.4 per cent respectively).

Table 8.38: Feeling valued by society, by sex and Department of Health region, 2008

Region	No, not at all			Not often			Sometimes			Yes, definitely		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males												
Barwon-South Western	6.3	4.6	8.7	4.1*	2.3	7.0	23.9	18.8	29.9	59.0	52.7	65.1
Eastern Metropolitan	9.0	7.1	11.3	4.4	3.2	5.9	27.1	24.1	30.3	53.9	50.4	57.4
Gippsland	9.9	7.2	13.3	6.5	4.6	9.1	28.3	24.3	32.7	50.8	46.4	55.1
Grampians	7.7	5.8	10.1	6.1	4.1	9.1	23.4	20.0	27.2	58.1	53.9	62.2
Hume	9.4	7.3	12.0	4.8	3.5	6.5	26.4	23.2	29.9	54.5	50.9	58.0
Loddon Mallee	8.2	6.1	11.0	4.3	2.9	6.5	23.5	20.2	27.1	57.3	53.1	61.5
North and West Metropolitan	8.2	7.0	9.6	4.5	3.6	5.5	29.8	27.6	32.0	51.7	49.3	54.0
Southern Metropolitan	8.6	7.1	10.4	4.6	3.7	5.8	30.6	27.9	33.4	50.5	47.6	53.4
Metropolitan	8.4	7.5	9.3	4.6	4.0	5.3	29.3	27.8	30.9	52.0	50.4	53.6
Rural	8.1	7.1	9.3	5.1	4.2	6.1	24.9	22.9	27.0	56.2	53.9	58.5
Total	8.3	7.6	9.1	4.7	4.1	5.2	28.2	27.0	29.5	53.2	51.8	54.6
Females												
Barwon-South Western	5.7	3.9	8.2	3.6	2.4	5.3	30.5	26.5	34.8	54.8	50.5	59.1
Eastern Metropolitan	5.7	4.7	6.9	6.0	4.8	7.6	31.1	28.5	33.8	51.6	48.9	54.4
Gippsland	7.7	6.1	9.6	5.4	4.1	7.1	30.4	27.4	33.7	50.8	47.6	54.0
Grampians	7.2	5.6	9.2	6.0	4.1	8.6	29.4	25.9	33.1	52.0	48.0	55.9
Hume	6.2	5.2	7.4	4.2	3.3	5.2	32.2	29.6	34.9	53.3	50.6	56.1
Loddon Mallee	7.3	6.0	8.8	6.7	5.0	8.9	29.9	26.9	33.1	51.0	47.8	54.1
North and West Metropolitan	7.9	6.9	8.9	5.5	4.7	6.5	30.8	29.0	32.5	48.8	47.0	50.7
Southern Metropolitan	7.1	6.0	8.3	5.4	4.4	6.6	28.6	26.5	30.9	52.8	50.4	55.1
Metropolitan	7.0	6.4	7.6	5.5	4.9	6.2	30.0	28.8	31.3	51.1	49.8	52.4
Rural	6.7	5.9	7.6	5.2	4.4	6.0	30.4	28.7	32.1	52.6	50.9	54.3
Total	6.9	6.4	7.4	5.4	4.9	5.9	30.1	29.1	31.1	51.7	50.6	52.7
Persons												
Barwon-South Western	6.0	4.6	7.7	3.9	2.7	5.6	27.3	23.9	31.0	56.8	52.9	60.7
Eastern Metropolitan	7.3	6.1	8.6	5.2	4.3	6.2	29.1	27.1	31.2	52.8	50.6	55.0
Gippsland	8.8	7.1	10.7	6.0	4.8	7.4	29.3	26.7	32.0	50.8	48.1	53.5
Grampians	7.5	6.2	9.1	5.9	4.5	7.8	26.5	24.0	29.1	55.0	52.1	57.9
Hume	7.8	6.6	9.3	4.5	3.7	5.5	29.3	27.2	31.5	53.9	51.6	56.1
Loddon Mallee	7.7	6.4	9.2	5.5	4.4	7.0	26.7	24.4	29.1	54.1	51.4	56.8
North and West Metropolitan	8.0	7.2	8.8	5.0	4.4	5.7	30.3	28.9	31.7	50.2	48.7	51.7
Southern Metropolitan	7.8	6.9	8.9	5.0	4.3	5.8	29.6	27.9	31.4	51.6	49.7	53.5
Metropolitan	7.7	7.1	8.3	5.0	4.6	5.5	29.7	28.7	30.7	51.6	50.5	52.6
Rural	7.4	6.8	8.2	5.1	4.5	5.8	27.6	26.3	29.0	54.4	53.0	55.8
Total	7.6	7.2	8.1	5.0	4.7	5.4	29.1	28.3	29.9	52.4	51.5	53.3

Metropolitan and rural regions are identified by colour as follows: metropolitan / rural.

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

* Estimate has a relative standard error between 25 and 50 per cent and should be interpreted with caution.

Feeling safe walking down street at night

Like trust, a sense of safety is an important determinant of a person's willingness to engage in the cultural, community and civic activities that a society offers. Feelings of safety are usually measured in terms of whether people feel safe in selected situations when they are unaccompanied. In this sense, safety refers to individual perceptions of personal harm or vulnerability. The 2008 survey asked respondents whether they felt safe walking down their street alone after dark.

Table 8.39 shows the proportion of persons who felt safe walking alone down their street after dark, by age group and sex. A majority of persons (58.9 per cent) definitely felt safe walking down their street alone after dark, while a further 15.4 per cent reported they sometimes felt safe.

Almost three-quarters of males (74.4 per cent) definitely felt safe walking alone down their street after dark, which was higher than the proportion for females (43.9 per cent). This pattern was observed across all age groups for males, compared with females.

Across age groups, the lowest rates of definitely feeling safe walking alone at night were observed among persons aged 65 years and over.

Table 8.39: Feelings of safety, by age group and sex, 2008

Age group (years)	Do you feel safe walking alone down your street after dark?											
	No, not at all			Not often			Sometimes			Yes, definitely		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males												
18–24 years	4.8	3.1	7.3	4.7	3.1	7.1	14.4	11.5	18	75.8	71.6	79.6
25–34 years	5.0	3.5	6.9	2.8	1.8	4.4	14.7	12.0	17.9	77.2	73.7	80.4
35–44 years	4.2	3.1	5.6	2.4	1.6	3.6	11.7	9.9	13.9	80.3	77.7	82.6
45–54 years	5.1	4.1	6.5	2.8	1.9	4.0	10.4	8.8	12.2	79.0	76.7	81.2
55–64 years	8.2	6.9	9.8	3.0	2.1	4.2	10.7	9.2	12.5	74.8	72.4	77.1
65+	17.2	15.5	19.0	5.8	4.8	7.0	9.9	8.6	11.5	60.4	58.2	62.7
Total	7.5	6.9	8.1	3.5	3.1	4.1	12.0	11.1	12.9	74.4	71.8	76.8
Females												
18–24 years	16.1	13.2	19.5	10.2	7.8	13.3	26.1	22.4	30.3	46.7	42.3	51.1
25–34 years	19.0	16.9	21.3	9.2	7.6	11.0	23.6	21.2	26.2	46.5	43.6	49.4
35–44 years	20.1	18.4	21.8	8.4	7.3	9.7	20.9	19.2	22.7	47.6	45.5	49.7
45–54 years	20.6	18.8	22.5	6.9	5.8	8.1	18.4	16.6	20.3	50.8	48.5	53.1
55–64 years	28.6	26.6	30.6	6.6	5.6	7.8	15.7	14.2	17.4	44.5	42.3	46.6
65+	43.3	41.3	45.2	6.1	5.3	7.2	9.7	8.5	10.9	29.7	28.0	31.4
Total	24.9	24.0	25.7	7.9	7.3	8.5	18.9	18.1	19.8	43.9	42.9	45.0
Persons												
18–24 years	10.3	8.6	12.4	7.4	5.9	9.3	20.2	17.7	22.9	61.5	58.3	64.6
25–34 years	12.0	10.6	13.5	6.0	5.0	7.1	19.2	17.3	21.2	61.9	59.5	64.2
35–44 years	12.2	11.2	13.4	5.5	4.7	6.3	16.4	15.1	17.8	63.7	62.0	65.4
45–54 years	12.9	11.8	14.1	4.8	4.1	5.7	14.4	13.2	15.7	64.8	63.0	66.4
55–64 years	18.5	17.3	19.9	4.8	4.2	5.6	13.3	12.1	14.5	59.5	57.8	61.1
65+	31.6	30.2	33.0	6.0	5.3	6.7	9.8	8.9	10.7	43.5	42.0	45.0
Total	16.5	15.9	17.0	5.7	5.3	6.1	15.4	14.8	16.1	58.9	58.0	59.7

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'not applicable', 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are crude estimates, except for the totals, which represent the estimates for Victoria and have been age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified as follows: **above Victoria** / **below Victoria**.

Table 8.40 shows the proportion of persons who agreed, or did not agree, they felt safe walking alone down their street after dark, over time. The proportion of persons who definitely felt safe increased from 54.7 per cent in 2001 to 58.9 per cent in 2008.

Table 8.40: Feelings of safety, 2001–2008

Do you feel safe walking alone down your street after dark?	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Per cent							
Not at all	22.0	22.9	17.8	17.7	16.8	15.3	17.0	16.5
Not often	6.0	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.7	5.4	5.3	5.7
Sometimes	17.3	16.0	15.4	13.3	14.5	14.7	16.2	15.4
Yes, definitely	54.7	55.7	57.9	60.3	60.2	61.2	57.6	58.9

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'not applicable', 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Ordinary least squares regression was used to test for trends over time.

Figures 8.4a–8.4d show the 'disproportionality' in the proportions of males and females who definitely did and did not feel safe walking alone down their street after dark, by age group. Definitely not feeling safe was concentrated disproportionately among those aged 65 years and over for both males and females. Males aged 65 years and over represented 16.0 per cent of the male population in Victoria in 2008, but 38.1 per cent of males who did not feel safe walking down their street alone. In contrast, males aged 18–24 years represented 13.5 per cent of the male population but less than one in ten (8.9 per cent) of those who did not feel safe.

Females aged 65 years and over accounted for almost one third (32.7 per cent) of all females who felt unsafe walking alone down their street after dark and less than one fifth of the female population (18.9 per cent).

Figure 8.4a: Proportion of males who definitely did not feel safe walking alone down their street after dark, by age group and population proportion, 2008

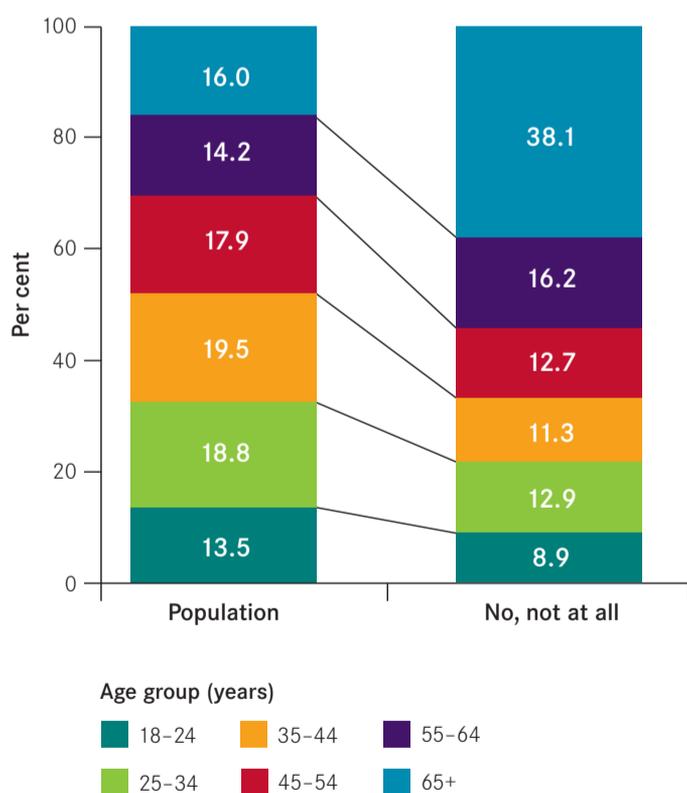


Figure 8.4b: Proportion of females who definitely did not feel safe walking alone down their street after dark, by age group and population proportion, 2008

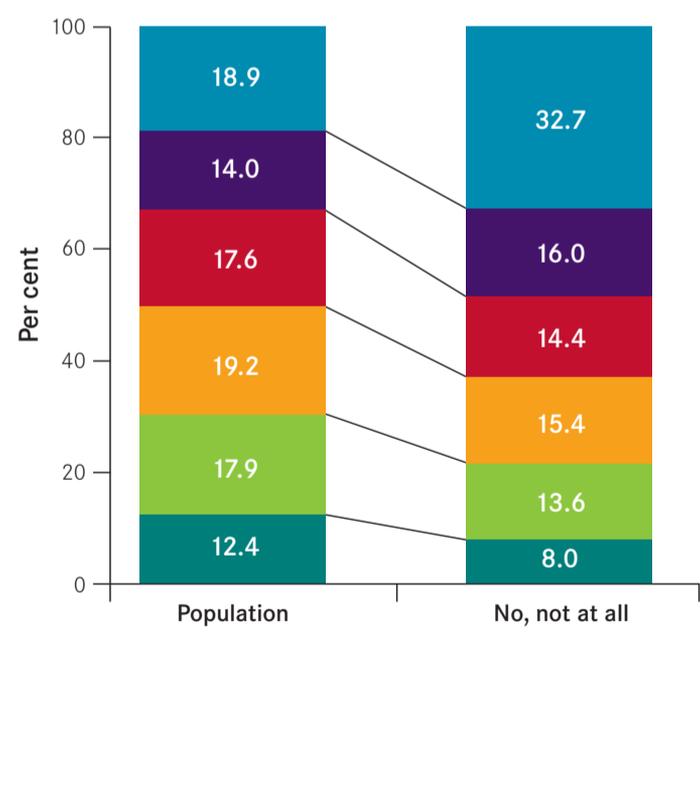


Figure 8.4c: Proportion of males who definitely felt safe walking alone down their street after dark, by age group and population proportion, 2008

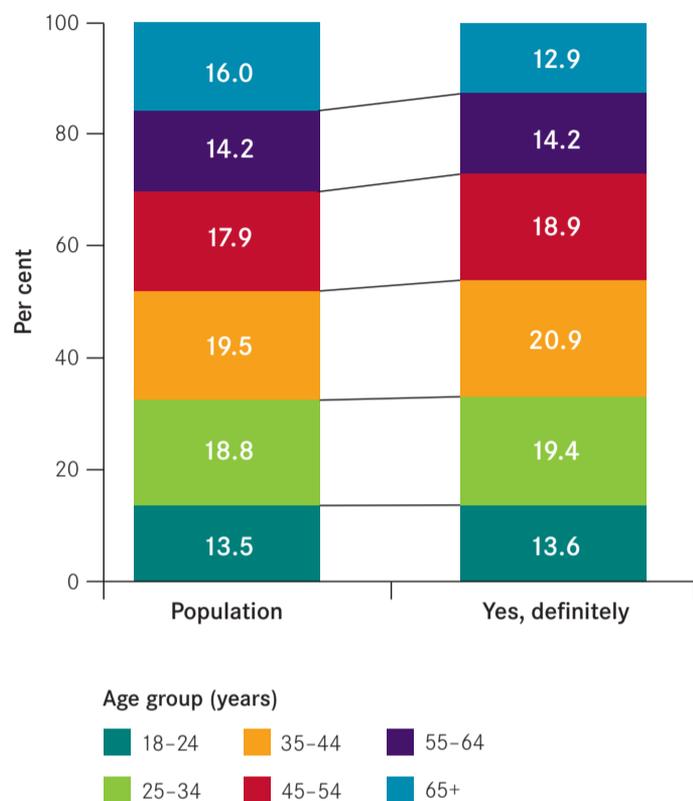
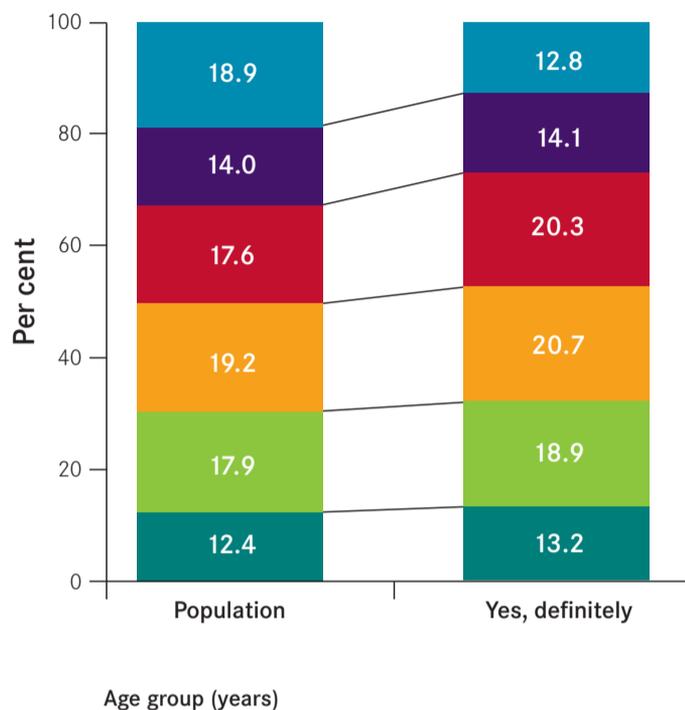


Figure 8.4d: Proportion of females who definitely felt safe walking alone down their street after dark, by age group and population proportion, 2008



There were metropolitan–rural differences in the proportions of males, females and persons who felt safe walking down their street alone after dark (table 8.41). A higher proportion of males living in rural areas (79.3 per cent) felt safe, compared with males living in the metropolitan area (72.8 per cent). Across Department of Health regions, the proportion of males who definitely felt safe ranged from 68.4 per cent in the North and West Metropolitan region to 80.8 per cent in the Barwon–South Western region. The proportion of males who felt safe was above the average for Victoria in the Barwon–South Western, Gippsland and Loddon Mallee regions, and below the state average in the North and West Metropolitan region.

This pattern of results was similar for the female population. A higher proportion of females living in rural areas (51.5 per cent) definitely felt safe walking down their street alone after dark, compared with those living in the metropolitan area (41.2 per cent). The proportion of females who felt safe was above the average for Victoria (43.9 per cent) in all five rural Department of Health regions, and highest in the Loddon Mallee region (53.4 per cent). The proportion of females who definitely felt safe was below the average for Victoria in the North and West Metropolitan region (37.6 per cent). The proportion of females from this region who definitely did not feel safe (29.1 per cent) was also higher than the average for Victoria (24.9 per cent).

The proportion of persons who definitely felt safe walking after dark was above the average for Victoria (58.9 per cent) in all rural Department of Health regions, and below the average for Victoria in the North and West Metropolitan region (52.7 per cent).

Table 8.41: Feelings of safety, by sex and Department of Health region, 2008

Region	Do you feel safe walking alone down your street after dark?											
	No, not at all			Not often			Sometimes			Yes, definitely		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males												
Barwon-South Western	7.0	5.0	9.7	1.5*	0.9	2.4	7.8	4.8	12.5	80.8	76.1	84.8
Eastern Metropolitan	5.4	4.2	6.9	3.6	2.6	5.0	12.1	9.8	14.7	77.1	74.1	79.8
Gippsland	6.9	5.0	9.5	2.5*	1.4	4.2	6.2	4.4	8.7	79.9	76.4	83.0
Grampians	6.2	4.1	9.2	2.0*	1.1	3.6	7.6	5.4	10.7	79.6	75.6	83.0
Hume	7.3	5.6	9.4	2.8*	1.5	5.1	9.3	7.2	11.9	75.4	72.0	78.5
Loddon Mallee	6.2	4.6	8.3	2.2*	1.3	3.9	7.5	5.8	9.8	79.7	76.6	82.5
North and West Metropolitan	9.6	8.4	10.9	5.0	4.0	6.2	15.2	13.5	17.0	68.4	66.3	70.5
Southern Metropolitan	7.9	6.5	9.6	3.0	2.3	4.0	12.7	10.9	14.9	74.4	71.8	76.8
Metropolitan	7.8	7.0	8.6	4.1	3.5	4.7	13.5	12.4	14.7	72.8	71.3	74.2
Rural	6.7	5.7	7.7	2.1	1.6	2.7	7.7	6.5	9.2	79.3	77.5	80.9
Total	7.5	6.9	8.1	3.5	3.1	4.1	12.0	11.1	12.9	74.4	73.3	75.6
Females												
Barwon-South Western	19.3	16.2	22.9	5.7	3.7	8.9	16.8	13.1	21.3	52.1	47.2	56.8
Eastern Metropolitan	23.1	21.0	25.3	8.5	7.1	10.2	20.5	18.2	23.0	44.5	41.8	47.3
Gippsland	22.1	19.6	24.8	5.1	3.8	6.9	14.5	12.2	17.2	50.7	47.5	54.0
Grampians	19.8	17.1	22.8	7.9	5.3	11.6	14.5	11.8	17.7	49.9	46.2	53.5
Hume	21.1	18.7	23.7	5.3	4.2	6.7	15.1	13.2	17.3	50.8	48.1	53.5
Loddon Mallee	22.5	20.0	25.2	4.6	3.4	6.2	12.5	10.4	14.9	53.4	50.2	56.5
North and West Metropolitan	29.1	27.6	30.8	9.7	8.6	10.9	20.1	18.6	21.7	37.6	35.8	39.4
Southern Metropolitan	25.9	24.0	27.9	7.4	6.2	8.9	20.7	18.8	22.8	42.8	40.5	45.1
Metropolitan	26.4	25.4	27.5	8.7	8.0	9.5	20.3	19.3	21.5	41.2	39.9	42.5
Rural	20.9	19.6	22.3	5.6	4.7	6.7	14.9	13.5	16.4	51.5	49.7	53.2
Total	24.9	24.0	25.7	7.9	7.3	8.5	18.9	18.1	19.8	43.9	42.9	45.0
Persons												
Barwon-South Western	13.4	11.4	15.7	3.6	2.4	5.2	12.4	9.8	15.6	66.1	62.4	69.6
Eastern Metropolitan	14.6	13.4	16.0	6.1	5.2	7.2	16.3	14.7	18.1	60.3	58.2	62.4
Gippsland	14.7	13.0	16.6	3.8	2.8	4.9	10.3	8.8	12.1	65.1	62.6	67.6
Grampians	13.2	11.4	15.2	4.9	3.4	7.1	11.1	9.3	13.3	64.4	61.6	67.2
Hume	14.3	12.7	16.0	4.1	3.1	5.3	12.3	10.8	14.0	62.9	60.7	65.1
Loddon Mallee	14.6	13.0	16.3	3.4	2.6	4.5	10.0	8.6	11.7	66.2	63.9	68.5
North and West Metropolitan	19.6	18.6	20.7	7.3	6.6	8.2	17.6	16.5	18.8	52.7	51.3	54.2
Southern Metropolitan	17.2	16.0	18.5	5.2	4.5	6.1	16.7	15.4	18.2	58.3	56.4	60.1
Metropolitan	17.4	16.8	18.1	6.4	5.9	6.9	16.9	16.1	17.7	56.6	55.6	57.6
Rural	14.0	13.2	14.9	3.9	3.3	4.5	11.3	10.4	12.4	65.1	63.8	66.4
Total	16.5	15.9	17.0	5.7	5.3	6.1	15.4	14.8	16.1	58.9	58.0	59.7

Metropolitan and rural regions are identified by colour as follows: metropolitan / rural.

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'not applicable', 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

* Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25 and 50 per cent and should be interpreted with caution.

Community and civic engagement

Participating in recreational and leisure activities allows for social interaction and engagement with a broader cross-section of the community. These activities also contribute to individual wellbeing through benefits to physical and mental health, including social health. In this chapter, recreation and leisure are interpreted broadly to involve activities that individuals may undertake during leisure time. They may include belonging to and participating in organised groups (including church or other religious groups and social or action groups) and attending local events (church fêtes, school concerts etc.).

Membership of an organised group

The 2008 survey collected information on whether respondents were members of a number of organised groups. Table 8.42 presents information on the proportion of persons who were members of specific groups, by age group and sex. More than one in four persons (26.0 per cent) was a member of a sports group, more than one in five (22.5 per cent) was a member of a professional group or academic society, almost one in six (16.4 per cent) belonged to a church group, and more than one in 10 (11.2 per cent) was a member of a school group. Almost one in five persons (19.0 per cent) was a member of a community or other action group.

Group membership varied by age group and sex. Membership of one or more sports groups was popular among males and females of all ages. The proportions of males and females who were members of sports groups were higher among those aged 18–24 years (39.5 per cent and 25.8 per cent respectively), and the proportions of males and females who belonged to other community or action groups were higher among older males and females (30.8 per cent and 31.8 per cent respectively among those aged 65 years and over). Among those aged 65 years and over, almost one-third of females (30.0 per cent) and more than one-fifth of males (23.7 per cent) were members of a church group. More than one quarter of females (26.4 per cent) and more than one in seven males (14.3 per cent) aged 35–44 years were involved in school groups.

Across all age groups, a higher proportion of males than females indicated they were members of a sports group. A higher proportion of older females than older males belonged to a church group. The proportions of males and females who belonged to a community or action group were similar for all age groups.

Table 8.42: Membership of an organised group, by age group and sex, 2008

Age group (years)	Sports group			Church group			School group			Professional group			Other community or action group		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males															
18–24 years	39.5	34.9	44.3	8.7	6.3	11.9	13.4	10.6	16.9	19.7	16.1	23.9	7.9	5.6	10.8
25–34 years	27.2	23.9	30.7	11.3	9.0	14.2	5.6	4.1	7.7	26.0	22.8	29.5	13.1	10.7	15.9
35–44 years	33.2	30.5	36.1	12.6	10.7	14.6	14.3	12.3	16.6	27.8	25.2	30.6	14.4	12.6	16.5
45–54 years	33.5	30.9	36.2	14.0	12.0	16.2	11.6	10.0	13.5	27.4	25.0	30.0	20.8	18.7	23.1
55–64 years	31.0	28.6	33.5	15.2	13.3	17.3	5.3	4.3	6.7	24.4	22.1	26.7	25.9	23.8	28.3
65+	30.3	28.3	32.5	23.7	21.8	25.7	2.5	1.9	3.3	15.3	13.7	17.1	30.8	28.7	32.9
Total	31.9	30.6	33.1	14.5	13.6	15.4	8.6	7.9	9.4	23.9	22.7	25.1	18.9	17.9	19.8
Females															
18–24 years	25.8	22.2	29.8	11.3	8.7	14.6	17.1	14.0	20.8	22.4	18.9	26.3	6.6	4.8	9.0
25–34 years	17.6	15.6	19.9	12.0	10.3	14.0	11.1	9.5	12.8	25.5	23.0	28.1	13.8	12.0	15.8
35–44 years	22.9	21.2	24.6	16.9	15.3	18.5	26.4	24.6	28.3	22.4	20.7	24.2	16.2	14.8	17.8
45–54 years	22.7	20.9	24.6	17.4	15.7	19.2	17.2	15.6	19.0	25.6	23.7	27.7	20.3	18.6	22.1
55–64 years	16.5	15.1	18.1	20.5	18.8	22.3	6.4	5.4	7.6	19.2	17.5	21.0	25.6	23.8	27.5
65+	18.1	16.7	19.6	30.0	28.3	31.8	3.0	2.4	3.7	10.4	9.3	11.6	31.8	30.1	33.6
Total	20.3	19.5	21.2	18.1	17.4	18.9	13.6	12.9	14.4	21.2	20.3	22.1	19.2	18.5	19.9
Persons															
18–24 years	32.8	29.8	35.9	10.0	8.2	12.2	15.2	13.1	17.7	21.0	18.5	23.8	7.2	5.7	9.1
25–34 years	22.4	20.4	24.5	11.7	10.2	13.4	8.4	7.2	9.7	25.7	23.7	27.9	13.4	11.9	15.1
35–44 years	28.0	26.4	29.7	14.7	13.5	16.1	20.4	19.0	21.9	25.1	23.5	26.7	15.3	14.1	16.6
45–54 years	28.0	26.5	29.7	15.7	14.4	17.1	14.5	13.3	15.7	26.5	25.0	28.2	20.5	19.2	22.0
55–64 years	23.7	22.2	25.1	17.9	16.6	19.2	5.9	5.1	6.7	21.7	20.3	23.2	25.8	24.3	27.3
65+	23.6	22.4	24.8	27.2	25.9	28.5	2.8	2.3	3.3	12.6	11.7	13.6	31.4	30.0	32.7
Total	26.0	25.2	26.7	16.4	15.8	17.0	11.2	10.7	11.7	22.5	21.7	23.2	19.0	18.5	19.7

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses

Data are crude estimates, except for the totals, which represent the estimates for Victoria and have been age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: **above Victoria** / **below Victoria**.

Table 8.43 shows the proportion of persons who reported membership of a group, by group type, over time. Sports, church, school and professional/academic group membership decreased between 2002 and 2008, while membership of another community or action group remained constant over this period.

Table 8.43: Membership of an organised group, 2002–2008

Group type	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	per cent						
Sports group	28.4	28.2	29.3	27.2	27.0	26.0	26.0
Church group	18.8	18.0	18.9	18.2	16.5	16.6	16.4
School group	14.7	14.3	15.4	15.3	12.7	11.6	11.2
Professional group or academic society	25.1	21.8	20.8	19.6	20.0	18.5	19.0
Other community or action group	21.1	21.6	21.2	23.0	22.0	22.0	22.5
Any of the groups above	64.9	63.4	62.8	62.7	61.6	60.9	60.7

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Ordinary least squares regression was used to test for trends over time.

Table 8.44 provides a regional perspective on membership of organised groups. Belonging to sports groups and other community or action groups was more popular in rural areas compared with the metropolitan area, for both males and females. More than one-third (37.4 per cent) of rural males belonged to one or more sporting groups, compared with 29.9 per cent of males living in the metropolitan area. Among females, 25.4 per cent of those living in rural areas and 18.6 per cent of those living in the metropolitan area were members of sports groups. Similar proportions of males and females from rural areas (24.1 per cent and 24.0 per cent respectively), and males and females from the metropolitan area (17.0 per cent and 17.4 per cent respectively) were members of other community or action groups.

A higher proportion of females living in rural areas (16.0 per cent) were involved with school groups, compared with those living in the metropolitan area (13.0 per cent). The proportion of females who were members of school groups was above the Victorian average (13.6 per cent) in the Loddon Mallee (18.5 per cent) region.

The proportion of males who were members of a professional group was below the average for Victoria (23.9 per cent) in four of the five rural Department of Health regions: Gippsland (18.3 per cent), Hume (18.1 per cent), Grampians (17.6 per cent) and Loddon Mallee (15.4 per cent). In contrast, the proportion of males from these same four regions who belonged to a community or other action group was above the average for Victoria (18.9 per cent).

Table 8.44: Membership of an organised group, by sex and Department of Health region, 2008

Age group (years)	Sports group			Church group			School group			Professional group			Other community or action group		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males															
Barwon-South Western	37.3	32.2	42.7	16.6	13.2	20.6	9.9	6.9	14.0	25.4	20.1	31.5	23.1	18.6	28.3
Eastern Metropolitan	34.1	30.9	37.5	17.6	15.0	20.5	9.6	7.7	11.9	27.7	24.7	30.9	17.6	15.3	20.2
Gippsland	37.6	33.5	41.9	14.4	11.7	17.7	11.1	8.8	13.9	18.3	15.3	21.8	26.0	22.4	29.8
Grampians	35.5	31.3	40.0	16.2	13.4	19.4	8.3	6.3	10.9	17.6	14.3	21.4	25.4	22.4	28.6
Hume	35.7	32.3	39.2	13.8	11.7	16.1	7.7	6.0	9.9	18.1	15.7	20.8	24.8	22.2	27.7
Loddon Mallee	40.3	36.3	44.5	14.9	12.5	17.7	11.2	8.8	14.2	15.4	13.2	17.8	23.0	20.2	26.1
North and West Metropolitan	27.0	25.0	29.2	13.1	11.6	14.7	7.9	6.8	9.3	24.3	22.3	26.4	16.4	14.9	18.1
Southern Metropolitan	29.6	26.9	32.3	12.8	11.0	14.9	7.8	6.4	9.5	24.8	22.4	27.3	16.6	14.7	18.8
Metropolitan	29.9	28.4	31.4	14.1	13.1	15.3	8.2	7.4	9.2	25.4	24.0	26.8	17.0	15.8	18.1
Rural	37.4	35.2	39.6	15.3	13.8	16.8	9.7	8.5	11.2	19.4	17.6	21.4	24.1	22.4	25.9
Total	31.9	30.6	33.1	14.5	13.6	15.4	8.6	7.9	9.4	23.9	22.7	25.1	18.9	17.9	19.8
Females															
Barwon-South Western	25.0	21.2	29.3	18.8	16.0	21.9	14.8	11.4	19.0	20.9	17.0	25.4	24.1	20.6	28.1
Eastern Metropolitan	21.1	18.9	23.6	21.1	18.9	23.5	14.2	12.6	16.1	24.3	21.9	26.8	17.9	16.2	19.7
Gippsland	26.4	23.6	29.5	17.7	15.5	20.0	15.9	13.8	18.4	16.2	13.9	18.8	23.8	21.4	26.4
Grampians	22.4	19.3	25.7	22.5	19.6	25.7	15.5	13.4	17.9	18.1	15.6	20.9	23.3	21.3	25.5
Hume	26.2	23.9	28.8	18.1	16.4	19.9	15.3	13.5	17.2	20.4	18.2	22.8	25.2	23.2	27.3
Loddon Mallee	26.5	23.8	29.4	20.7	18.3	23.2	18.5	15.9	21.4	19.0	16.5	21.8	23.3	21.2	25.6
North and West Metropolitan	15.6	14.3	16.9	16.4	15.1	17.8	12.0	10.9	13.2	20.2	18.7	21.7	16.5	15.2	17.9
Southern Metropolitan	20.1	18.2	22.0	16.4	14.8	18.1	13.2	11.6	14.8	21.8	19.9	23.8	17.5	16.0	19.2
Metropolitan	18.6	17.6	19.6	17.6	16.7	18.6	13.0	12.1	13.8	21.8	20.8	23.0	17.4	16.5	18.3
Rural	25.4	23.9	27.0	19.4	18.2	20.6	16.0	14.6	17.4	19.1	17.7	20.7	24.0	22.7	25.3
Total	20.3	19.5	21.2	18.1	17.4	18.9	13.6	12.9	14.4	21.2	20.3	22.1	19.2	18.5	19.9
Persons															
Barwon-South Western	31.1	27.8	34.6	17.6	15.4	20.1	12.3	9.9	15.2	23.0	19.6	26.8	23.7	20.7	26.9
Eastern Metropolitan	27.4	25.4	29.4	19.4	17.7	21.2	12.0	10.7	13.4	25.9	24.0	27.9	17.8	16.3	19.4
Gippsland	31.7	29.2	34.4	16.2	14.4	18.2	13.6	12.0	15.4	17.2	15.2	19.3	24.6	22.5	26.9
Grampians	28.9	26.2	31.8	19.5	17.4	21.7	12.1	10.5	13.8	17.9	15.8	20.3	24.2	22.4	26.1
Hume	30.9	28.8	33.1	16.0	14.7	17.5	11.5	10.2	12.9	19.2	17.5	21.0	25.1	23.5	26.9
Loddon Mallee	33.4	30.9	35.9	17.9	16.2	19.8	14.9	13.1	17.0	17.1	15.4	19.0	23.2	21.4	25.1
North and West Metropolitan	21.2	20.0	22.5	14.7	13.7	15.8	10.0	9.2	10.9	22.2	21.0	23.5	16.6	15.5	17.6
Southern Metropolitan	24.7	23.1	26.4	14.6	13.4	15.9	10.5	9.4	11.6	23.2	21.7	24.8	17.1	15.9	18.5
Metropolitan	24.1	23.2	25.0	15.9	15.2	16.7	10.6	10.0	11.3	23.5	22.7	24.4	17.2	16.5	17.9
Rural	31.3	30.0	32.6	17.4	16.5	18.4	12.9	12.0	13.9	19.2	18.0	20.4	24.0	23.0	25.1
Total	26.0	25.2	26.7	16.4	15.8	17.0	11.2	10.7	11.7	22.5	21.7	23.2	19.0	18.5	19.7

Metropolitan and rural regions are identified by colour as follows: metropolitan / rural.

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

Attendance at a local event

A further indicator of participation in recreational and leisure activities is attendance at a local community event within the past six months. Table 8.45 shows the proportion of persons who reported they had recently attended a local community event, by age group and sex.

More than half of males and females (50.9 per cent and 54.8 per cent respectively) had attended a community event in the previous six months. Persons in the age group 35–44 had the highest attendance rate (64.2 per cent) while persons in the 18–24 years age group had the lowest rate (43.4 per cent).

Table 8.45: Attended a local community event in the past six months, by age group and sex, 2008

Age group (years)	Yes			No		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males						
18–24 years	41.9	37.3	46.6	57.7	53.0	62.3
25–34 years	46.3	42.3	50.3	53.5	49.5	57.4
35–44 years	62.0	59.0	64.9	37.8	34.9	40.8
45–54 years	57.7	54.8	60.4	42.2	39.4	45.0
55–64 years	48.5	45.8	51.1	51.4	48.8	54.1
65+	46.9	44.6	49.1	52.8	50.5	55.1
Total	50.9	49.6	52.2	48.9	47.5	50.2
Females						
18–24 years	45.1	40.7	49.5	54.3	49.8	58.7
25–34 years	48.1	45.2	50.9	51.5	48.6	54.4
35–44 years	66.4	64.3	68.4	33.5	31.5	35.5
45–54 years	59.8	57.5	62.0	39.7	37.5	41.9
55–64 years	54.1	51.9	56.2	45.2	43.1	47.4
65+	53.3	51.4	55.2	46.4	44.5	48.3
Total	54.8	53.7	55.9	44.8	43.7	45.8
Persons						
18–24 years	43.4	40.2	46.7	56.0	52.8	59.2
25–34 years	47.2	44.7	49.6	52.5	50.0	54.9
35–44 years	64.2	62.4	66.0	35.6	33.8	37.4
45–54 years	58.7	56.9	60.5	40.9	39.2	42.7
55–64 years	51.3	49.6	53.0	48.3	46.6	50.0
65+	50.4	48.9	51.9	49.3	47.8	50.8
Total	52.9	52.1	53.8	46.7	45.9	47.6

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are crude estimates, except for the totals, which represent the estimates for Victoria and have been age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: **above Victoria** / **below Victoria**.

Table 8.46 shows the proportion of persons who reported attending an event within the previous six months remained constant between 2003 and 2008.

Table 8.46: Attended a local community event in the past six months, 2003–2008

Attended a local community event	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Per cent					
Yes	52.2	49.4	53.9	52.9	51.3	52.9
No	47.4	50.2	45.8	46.8	48.1	46.7

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Ordinary least squares regression was used to test for trends over time.

Table 8.47 provides a regional perspective on recent attendance at a local community event. A higher proportion of males living in rural areas (64.1 per cent) had attended a local community event in the previous six months, compared with those who lived in the metropolitan area (46.3 per cent). Females living in rural areas (66.4 per cent) also had a higher rate of attending a community event, compared with females living in the metropolitan area (50.7 per cent).

Similar proportions of males and females (64.1 per cent and 66.4 per cent respectively) from rural regions had attended a local community event in the previous six months. In the metropolitan area, the proportion was higher for females (50.7 per cent) than males (46.3 per cent).

Table 8.47: Attended a local community event in the past six months, by sex and Department of Health region, 2008

Region	Yes			No		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males						
Barwon-South Western	67.2	60.9	72.9	32.6	26.9	38.9
Eastern Metropolitan	51.6	48.1	55.1	48.0	44.5	51.5
Gippsland	59.9	55.4	64.2	40.0	35.7	44.5
Grampians	61.2	56.9	65.4	38.6	34.4	43.0
Hume	62.7	59.1	66.2	37.1	33.6	40.7
Loddon Mallee	67.1	63.4	70.6	32.1	28.6	35.8
North and West Metropolitan	44.1	41.8	46.4	55.6	53.3	57.9
Southern Metropolitan	44.9	42.1	47.8	55.0	52.2	57.8
Metropolitan	46.3	44.7	47.9	53.5	51.9	55.1
Rural	64.1	61.8	66.3	35.6	33.3	37.9
Total	50.9	49.6	52.2	48.9	47.5	50.2
Females						
Barwon-South Western	65.6	60.8	70.1	33.9	29.4	38.7
Eastern Metropolitan	55.4	52.7	58.2	44.1	41.3	46.9
Gippsland	64.0	60.8	67.1	35.5	32.4	38.7
Grampians	67.0	63.0	70.7	32.5	28.8	36.4
Hume	70.4	67.8	73.0	29.4	26.9	32.1
Loddon Mallee	65.0	61.8	68.1	34.5	31.5	37.6
North and West Metropolitan	47.1	45.2	49.0	52.5	50.6	54.4
Southern Metropolitan	50.3	48.0	52.6	49.1	46.8	51.5
Metropolitan	50.7	49.4	52.0	48.9	47.6	50.2
Rural	66.4	64.6	68.1	33.2	31.5	35.0
Total	54.8	53.7	55.9	44.8	43.7	45.8
Persons						
Barwon-South Western	66.4	62.5	70.1	33.2	29.5	37.2
Eastern Metropolitan	53.7	51.5	55.9	45.9	43.7	48.1
Gippsland	62.0	59.2	64.6	37.7	35.1	40.5
Grampians	64.2	61.3	67.1	35.4	32.5	38.4
Hume	66.6	64.3	68.8	33.3	31.1	35.6
Loddon Mallee	66.2	63.7	68.5	33.2	30.8	35.6
North and West Metropolitan	45.7	44.2	47.1	54.0	52.5	55.5
Southern Metropolitan	47.7	45.8	49.5	52.0	50.2	53.9
Metropolitan	48.5	47.5	49.6	51.1	50.1	52.2
Rural	65.3	63.9	66.7	34.3	32.9	35.7
Total	52.9	52.1	53.8	46.7	45.9	47.6

Metropolitan and rural regions are identified by colour as follows: metropolitan / rural.

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

Community and civic engagement

Living in a multicultural society among individuals of diverse backgrounds, interests and values presents many opportunities for community and civic engagement. Whether individuals take up opportunities for social interaction and community engagement may depend on the extent to which certain conditions are fulfilled, including whether they trust casual acquaintances and strangers, feel valued as members of society and consider there are opportunities to be involved in different institutions and activities. The previous section of the chapter focused on the extent to which these enabling conditions were fulfilled.

Ways of expressing community and civic engagement include being involved in the community through volunteering, being on a committee or decision-making body, or taking local action on behalf of an organised group (for example, a sporting group, a church group or a school group). Being involved in community or civic activities is a form of socialisation. Networks formed through community and civic engagement tend to bring together individuals from different backgrounds who may not otherwise interact. Community and civic engagement thus facilitates social cohesion by allowing the expression of different perspectives, and it fosters greater appreciation of diversity and understanding throughout the community.

Volunteering

The 2008 survey asked respondents whether they currently received any help from volunteer organisations and whether they helped out a local group as a volunteer. The first of these two indicators was discussed earlier in the chapter; the second indicator is reported in this section.

Table 8.48 shows the proportion of persons who volunteered to help out a local group, by age group and sex. More than one-fifth (22.2 per cent) of persons reported they had definitely helped out a local group as a volunteer, and a further 10.2 per cent sometimes did so. The propensity to report definitely helping out a local group as a volunteer was similar for males and females, but increased with age.

Table 8.48: Volunteering, by age group and sex, 2008

Age group (years)	No, not at all			Not often			Sometimes			Yes, definitely		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males												
18–24 years	68.3	63.7	72.6	8.5	6.1	11.7	12.7	9.8	16.4	10.5	8.1	13.5
25–34 years	69.7	65.9	73.2	4.4	3.0	6.6	9.6	7.5	12.2	16.2	13.5	19.2
35–44 years	60.1	57.1	63.0	4.5	3.4	5.9	10.7	9.0	12.5	24.6	22.1	27.2
45–54 years	56.8	54.0	59.5	5.3	4.2	6.8	11.7	10.0	13.7	25.8	23.5	28.3
55–64 years	58.8	56.2	61.4	5.0	4.0	6.3	9.0	7.6	10.6	27.0	24.8	29.3
65+	56.9	54.7	59.2	5.0	4.0	6.2	8.3	7.2	9.6	29.5	27.4	31.5
Total	61.9	60.6	63.2	5.3	4.7	6.0	10.2	9.4	11.1	22.4	21.4	23.4
Females												
18–24 years	64.9	60.5	69.1	9.2	6.9	12.3	11.9	9.3	15.0	13.0	10.3	16.4
25–34 years	71.3	68.7	73.8	5.3	4.1	6.7	10.0	8.4	11.8	13.3	11.5	15.3
35–44 years	57.2	55.2	59.3	4.5	3.7	5.4	13.0	11.7	14.5	25.1	23.3	26.9
45–54 years	60.1	57.9	62.3	4.6	3.8	5.5	11.5	10.2	13.1	23.7	21.9	25.6
55–64 years	58.6	56.5	60.7	3.8	3.1	4.7	9.9	8.7	11.3	27.3	25.5	29.3
65+	61.1	59.3	62.9	3.1	2.5	3.8	5.7	4.9	6.6	30.0	28.3	31.7
Total	62.6	61.6	63.6	4.9	4.7	5.5	10.2	9.7	10.7	22.1	21.6	22.9
Persons												
18–24 years	66.6	63.4	69.7	8.9	7.1	11.0	12.3	10.3	14.6	11.7	9.9	13.9
25–34 years	70.5	68.2	72.7	4.9	3.9	6.1	9.8	8.4	11.3	14.7	13.1	16.5
35–44 years	58.7	56.9	60.4	4.5	3.8	5.3	11.9	10.8	13.0	24.8	23.3	26.4
45–54 years	58.5	56.7	60.2	4.9	4.2	5.8	11.6	10.5	12.9	24.7	23.3	26.3
55–64 years	58.7	57.1	60.4	4.4	3.7	5.2	9.4	8.5	10.5	27.2	25.7	28.7
65+	59.2	57.8	60.7	3.9	3.4	4.6	6.9	6.2	7.6	29.7	28.4	31.1
Total	62.3	61.5	63.1	5.1	4.7	5.5	10.2	9.7	10.7	22.2	21.6	22.9

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are crude estimates, except for the totals, which represent the estimates for Victoria and have been age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: **above Victoria** / **below Victoria**.

Table 8.49 shows the proportion of persons who reported definitely volunteering to help out a local group remained constant between 2001 and 2008.

Table 8.49: Volunteering, 2001–2008

Do you help out a local group as a volunteer?	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Per cent							
Not at all	63.8	63.3	59.9	63.2	59.6	61.3	59.4	62.3
Not often	4.3	3.3	6.2	5.9	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.1
Sometimes	10.8	9.5	10.1	8.1	11.4	11.1	12.7	10.2
Yes, definitely	21.1	23.9	23.9	22.9	23.5	22.4	22.4	22.2

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Ordinary least squares regression was used to test for trends over time.

Figures 8.5a and 8.5b show the extent to which persons definitely volunteered to help out a local group, in proportion to their population share. Among the males and females who definitely volunteered to help out a local group, those in the age groups 35–44 years and above were overrepresented, and those in the two younger age groups (18–24 years and 25–34 years) were underrepresented, relative to their respective population shares.

Figure 8.5a: Proportions of males who definitely helped out a local group as a volunteer, by age group and population proportion, 2008

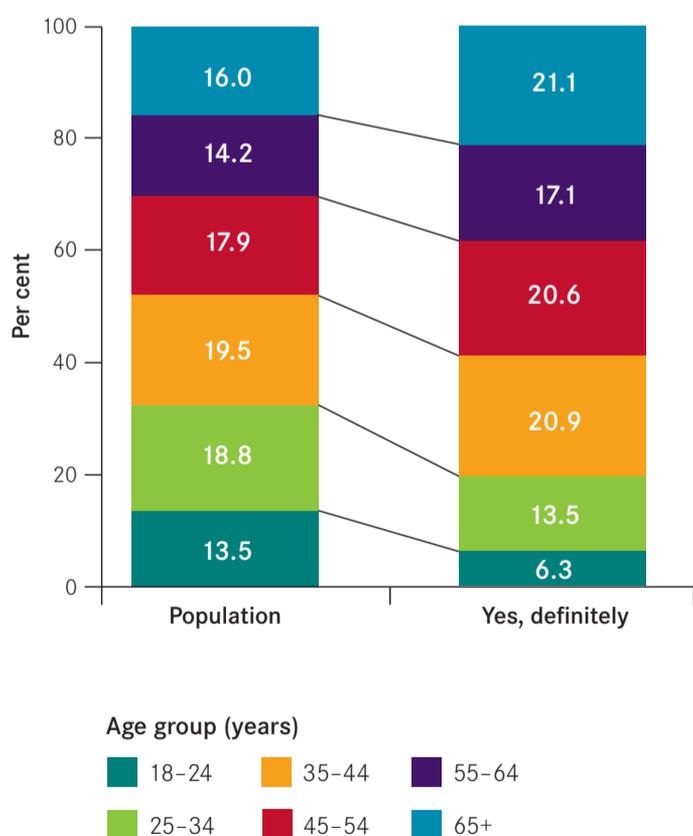


Figure 8.5b: Proportions of females who definitely helped out a local group as a volunteer, by age group and population proportion, 2008

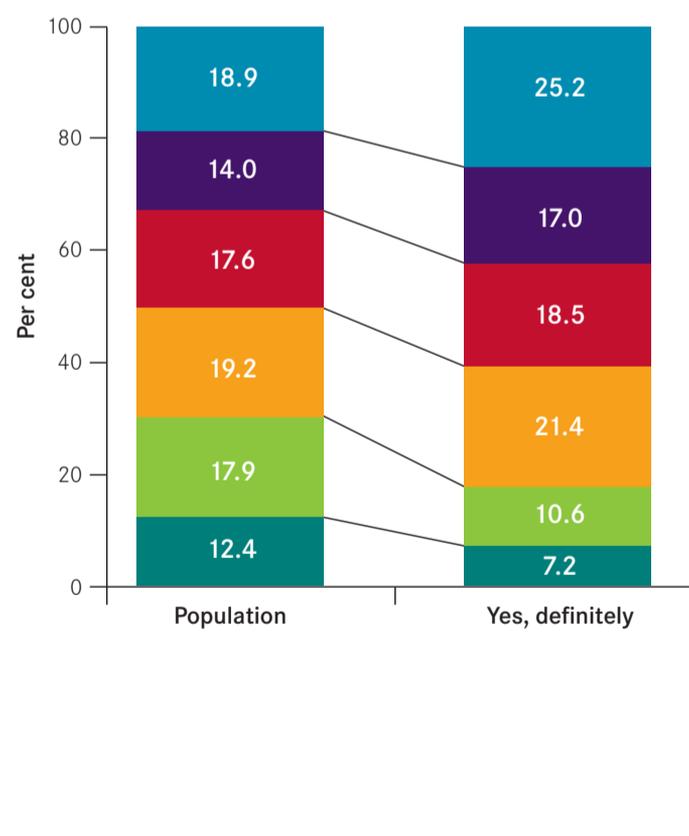


Table 8.50 shows volunteering was more prevalent among persons living in rural areas, compared with the metropolitan area. Almost one third of persons (31.4 per cent) from rural regions had definitely volunteered to help out a local group, compared with almost one fifth (18.9 per cent) of those from metropolitan regions.

More than one third of persons in each of the rural Department of Health regions had definitely volunteered to help out a local group. As a result, the propensity to volunteer was above the average for Victoria (22.2 per cent) in the Barwon–South Western, Gippsland, Grampians, Hume and Loddon Mallee regions. Similar proportions of males and females had definitely volunteered in both rural and metropolitan regions.

Table 8.50: Volunteering, by sex and Department of Health region, 2008

Age group (years)	No, not at all			Not often			Sometimes			Yes, definitely		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males												
Barwon-South Western	53.3	47.6	58.8	4.7	3.1	7.0	10.1	7.1	14.1	31.9	27.1	37.1
Eastern Metropolitan	63.2	59.8	66.5	4.9	3.5	6.8	10.3	8.2	12.8	21.3	18.9	24.0
Gippsland	47.5	43.1	51.9	7.5	5.0	11.1	11.3	8.9	14.1	33.3	29.6	37.4
Grampians	48.6	44.4	52.9	4.5	2.9	6.7	12.5	9.8	15.9	34.1	30.4	38.0
Hume	48.3	44.6	51.9	5.3	3.8	7.3	14.2	11.5	17.3	32.1	29.2	35.1
Loddon Mallee	49.0	44.9	53.2	5.0	3.6	7.0	11.9	9.6	14.7	33.8	30.2	37.7
North and West Metropolitan	69.2	67.0	71.4	5.6	4.5	7.0	9.3	8.0	10.7	15.7	14.2	17.5
Southern Metropolitan	65.3	62.5	68.0	5.2	4.0	6.8	9.8	8.1	11.8	19.4	17.3	21.7
Metropolitan	66.2	64.7	67.8	5.3	4.6	6.2	9.7	8.7	10.7	18.5	17.4	19.8
Rural	49.6	47.3	51.8	5.3	4.5	6.4	11.8	10.5	13.3	33.1	31.1	35.1
Total	61.9	60.6	63.2	5.3	4.7	6.0	10.2	9.4	11.1	22.4	21.4	23.4
Females												
Barwon-South Western	51.8	47.5	56.2	6.7	4.4	9.9	11.5	9.0	14.6	29.9	26.3	33.8
Eastern Metropolitan	63.6	60.8	66.2	3.4	2.5	4.6	9.0	7.6	10.7	23.9	21.6	26.3
Gippsland	51.2	47.9	54.4	5.6	4.3	7.4	13.6	11.5	16.1	29.5	26.8	32.4
Grampians	52.1	48.2	55.9	6.0	4.1	8.9	12.4	9.8	15.6	29.3	26.8	32.1
Hume	52.0	49.4	54.6	6.6	5.2	8.5	11.8	10.2	13.5	29.6	27.5	31.7
Loddon Mallee	53.2	50.0	56.3	5.0	3.6	6.9	12.1	10.1	14.4	29.6	27.1	32.2
North and West Metropolitan	68.8	67.0	70.5	5.3	4.4	6.3	9.3	8.3	10.4	16.3	15.1	17.7
Southern Metropolitan	66.0	63.8	68.2	4.4	3.4	5.5	10.2	8.8	11.8	19.0	17.3	20.7
Metropolitan	66.5	65.3	67.7	4.5	4.0	5.1	9.5	8.7	10.3	19.2	18.3	20.2
Rural	52.1	50.4	53.8	6.0	5.1	7.1	12.2	11.1	13.4	29.7	28.3	31.1
Total	62.6	61.6	63.6	4.9	4.4	5.4	10.2	9.5	10.8	22.1	21.3	22.9
Persons												
Barwon-South Western	52.5	48.9	56.1	5.6	4.1	7.6	10.7	8.7	13.1	31.1	28.0	34.4
Eastern Metropolitan	63.5	61.3	65.6	4.1	3.3	5.2	9.6	8.3	11.1	22.5	20.8	24.3
Gippsland	49.5	46.8	52.3	6.5	5.0	8.4	12.5	10.8	14.3	31.2	28.9	33.7
Grampians	50.4	47.5	53.4	5.3	3.9	7.1	12.6	10.6	14.9	31.6	29.3	33.9
Hume	50.1	47.8	52.3	6.0	4.9	7.3	12.9	11.3	14.7	30.9	29.1	32.8
Loddon Mallee	51.2	48.6	53.8	5.0	3.9	6.3	11.9	10.3	13.7	31.8	29.5	34.1
North and West Metropolitan	69.0	67.6	70.4	5.4	4.7	6.2	9.3	8.5	10.2	16.1	15.1	17.2
Southern Metropolitan	65.7	63.9	67.4	4.8	4.0	5.7	10.0	8.9	11.2	19.2	17.8	20.6
Metropolitan	66.4	65.4	67.4	4.9	4.4	5.4	9.6	8.9	10.2	18.9	18.1	19.7
Rural	50.9	49.5	52.3	5.6	5.0	6.4	12.0	11.1	12.9	31.4	30.1	32.6
Total	62.3	61.5	63.1	5.1	4.7	5.5	10.2	9.7	10.7	22.2	21.6	22.9

Metropolitan and rural regions are identified by colour as follows: metropolitan / rural.

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

Taking local action on behalf of the community

The 2008 survey asked respondents whether they were a member of a sports group, church group, school group, professional group or academic society, or a community or other action group (tables 8.42–8.44), as discussed earlier in this chapter. The survey also asked respondents whether they had taken local action on behalf of the community as a part of being a group member in the previous two years.

More than six in 10 (60.7 per cent) persons reported they were members of one or more of the following: a sports group, a church group, a school group, a professional group or academic society, or some other community or action group (table 8.43). More than four in 10 (40.7 per cent) persons who belonged to a group reported having taken local action on behalf of the community within the previous two years, as a group member (table 8.51).

Similar proportions of males and females who were members of one or more organised groups reported they had taken local action on behalf of the community in the previous two years. There were no differences by age group in the prevalence of group members taking local action on behalf of the community.

Table 8.51: Taken local action on behalf of community in past two years^(a), by age group and sex, 2008

Age group (years)	Yes			No		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males						
18–24 years	37.7	31.8	43.9	57.0	50.8	63.0
25–34 years	39.9	34.9	45.1	54.5	49.3	59.6
35–44 years	41.1	37.5	44.8	53.9	50.2	57.6
45–54 years	45.6	42.1	49.1	48.9	45.4	52.5
55–64 years	48.8	45.5	52.1	47.3	44.0	50.6
65+	43.2	40.5	46.0	51.3	48.5	54.1
Total	42.4	40.7	44.1	52.4	50.7	54.1
Females						
18–24 years	39.7	34.1	45.6	53.1	47.2	58.9
25–34 years	33.8	30.3	37.5	57.6	53.8	61.4
35–44 years	38.2	35.7	40.8	55.9	53.3	58.5
45–54 years	42.1	39.3	45.0	52.5	49.6	55.4
55–64 years	45.1	42.3	47.9	48.9	46.0	51.7
65+	38.0	35.8	40.3	53.3	50.9	55.6
Total	39.1	37.8	40.5	53.8	52.4	55.2
Persons						
18–24 years	38.6	34.5	42.9	55.2	50.8	59.4
25–34 years	36.9	33.8	40.1	56.1	52.8	59.3
35–44 years	39.7	37.5	41.9	54.9	52.6	57.2
45–54 years	43.9	41.6	46.2	50.7	48.4	53.0
55–64 years	47.1	44.9	49.2	48.0	45.9	50.2
65+	40.4	38.7	42.2	52.4	50.5	54.2
Total	40.7	39.6	41.8	53.1	52.0	54.2

(a) Percentages are derived from persons who reported being members of a group.

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are crude estimates, except for the totals, which represent the estimates for Victoria and have been age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

Across Department of Health regions, the proportion of persons who reported taking local action as part of being a group member ranged from 36.4 per cent in the North and West Metropolitan region to more than half (51.7 per cent) in the Hume region (table 8.52).

The proportion was above the average for Victoria (40.7 per cent) in all five rural regions: Hume (51.7 per cent) Loddon Mallee (50.6 per cent), Gippsland (48.7 per cent), Barwon–South Western (47.7 per cent) and Grampians (46.5 per cent). This is reflected in the summary figures for the metropolitan and rural areas, with 49.0 per cent of those living in rural areas reporting engagement in local community action, compared with 37.6 per cent of persons living in the metropolitan area.

Among females who were members of a local group, the proportion who had been involved in local action was below the average for Victoria (39.1 per cent) in the North and West Metropolitan region (34.9 per cent).

Table 8.52: Taken local action on behalf of community in past two years^(a), by sex and Department of Health region, 2008

Age group (years)	Yes			No		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males						
Barwon-South Western	53.8	47.5	59.9	42.8	37.0	48.8
Eastern Metropolitan	40.4	36.3	44.7	54.8	50.5	59.0
Gippsland	53.6	48.1	59.0	41.9	36.5	47.5
Grampians	47.3	42.1	52.6	47.9	42.6	53.3
Hume	52.7	48.0	57.3	43.2	38.6	47.9
Loddon Mallee	54.2	49.0	59.3	41.8	36.9	46.9
North and West Metropolitan	37.8	34.9	40.9	55.8	52.7	58.8
Southern Metropolitan	38.1	34.5	41.9	56.5	52.6	60.3
Metropolitan	38.7	36.6	40.8	55.7	53.6	57.8
Rural	52.3	49.5	55.1	43.6	40.9	46.4
Total	42.4	40.7	44.1	52.4	50.7	54.1
Females						
Barwon-South Western	42.2	36.7	47.8	50.8	45.2	56.5
Eastern Metropolitan	38.3	34.9	41.9	55.5	51.9	59.0
Gippsland	43.8	39.7	47.9	47.9	43.8	52.1
Grampians	46.0	41.9	50.1	49.0	44.9	53.1
Hume	50.8	47.4	54.3	43.4	40.0	46.8
Loddon Mallee	46.9	43.2	50.7	46.3	42.3	50.4
North and West Metropolitan	34.9	32.5	37.3	55.9	53.3	58.5
Southern Metropolitan	36.8	33.9	39.8	56.8	53.8	59.7
Metropolitan	36.6	35.0	38.3	56.1	54.4	57.8
Rural	45.7	43.4	47.9	47.6	45.4	49.9
Total	39.1	37.8	40.5	53.8	52.4	55.2
Persons						
Barwon-South Western	47.7	42.8	52.5	47.2	42.5	51.9
Eastern Metropolitan	39.4	36.6	42.2	55.1	52.3	57.9
Gippsland	48.7	45.2	52.2	45.0	41.5	48.5
Grampians	46.5	43.2	49.9	48.5	45.1	52.0
Hume	51.7	48.8	54.6	43.3	40.5	46.2
Loddon Mallee	50.6	47.2	54.0	44.1	40.8	47.5
North and West Metropolitan	36.4	34.5	38.4	55.8	53.8	57.8
Southern Metropolitan	37.4	35.1	39.8	56.6	54.2	59.0
Metropolitan	37.6	36.3	38.9	55.9	54.5	57.3
Rural	49.0	47.2	50.9	45.6	43.8	47.5
Total	40.7	39.6	41.8	53.1	52.0	54.2

(a) Percentages are derived from persons who reported being members of a group.

Metropolitan and rural regions are identified by colour as follows: metropolitan / rural.

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

Membership of a decision-making board or committee

The 2008 survey collected information on whether respondents were on a decision-making board or committee. Being on a committee or decision-making body is a common form of civic engagement. Examples include being a member of a sports club committee, a church committee, a body corporate or a resident action group. Less than one-fifth (18.7 per cent) of persons reported being on a decision-making board or committee (table 8.53). A higher proportion of males (20.6 per cent) than females (16.9 per cent) indicated they had such responsibilities.

A higher proportion of females aged 35–44 years and 45–54 years reported being on a decision-making body, compared with those in younger or older age groups. The proportion of males who had a decision-making role on a committee or board was highest among those aged 45–54 years (25.9 per cent) and lowest among those aged 18–24 years (11.7 per cent).

Table 8.53: On a decision-making board or committee, by age group and sex, 2008

Age group (years)	Yes			No		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males						
18–24 years	11.7	8.9	15.2	88.3	84.8	91.1
25–34 years	16.1	13.3	19.2	83.9	80.7	86.6
35–44 years	20.9	18.6	23.4	78.7	76.3	81.0
45–54 years	25.9	23.6	28.5	73.7	71.2	76.1
55–64 years	25.7	23.5	28.1	74.2	71.8	76.4
65+	23.1	21.3	25.1	76.8	74.8	78.6
Total	20.6	19.6	21.6	79.2	76.4	83.1
Females						
18–24 years	9.3	7.0	12.1	90.7	87.9	93.0
25–34 years	13.3	11.5	15.2	86.5	84.5	88.3
35–44 years	21.4	19.8	23.2	78.4	76.7	80.1
45–54 years	21.2	19.4	23.0	78.5	76.6	80.3
55–64 years	19.2	17.6	21.0	80.7	78.9	82.3
65+	15.7	14.4	17.1	84.1	82.8	85.4
Total	16.9	16.2	17.7	82.9	82.2	83.7
Persons						
18–24 years	10.5	8.6	12.7	89.5	87.3	91.4
25–34 years	14.7	13.0	16.5	85.2	83.3	86.8
35–44 years	21.2	19.8	22.6	78.6	77.1	80.0
45–54 years	23.5	22.1	25.1	76.2	74.6	77.6
55–64 years	22.4	21.1	23.9	77.4	76.0	78.8
65+	19.1	17.9	20.2	80.8	79.7	81.9
Total	18.7	18.1	19.3	81.1	80.5	81.8

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are crude estimates, except for the totals, which represent the estimates for Victoria and have been age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

Table 8.54 shows a higher proportion of persons living in rural areas (23.0 per cent) were on a decision-making board or committee, compared with those living in the metropolitan area (17.2 per cent). This metropolitan-rural difference applied to both males and females, such that 19.0 per cent of metropolitan males compared with 25.3 per cent of rural males, and 15.5 per cent of metropolitan females compared with 20.7 per cent of rural females, reported being involved with a decision-making body.

The proportion of males, females and persons who reported they were part of a decision-making board or committee was above the respective averages for Victoria for two rural Department of Health regions (Gippsland and Loddon Mallee) and above the Victorian average for persons (18.7 per cent) in the three remaining rural regions (Barwon-South Western at 22.8 per cent, Hume at 22.2 per cent and Grampians at 21.9 per cent). The proportions of males and females who were on a decision-making board or committee were below the respective averages for Victoria (20.6 per cent and 16.9 per cent) in the North and West Metropolitan region (15.9 per cent and 13.3 per cent respectively).

Table 8.54: On a decision-making board or committee, by sex and Department of Health region, 2008

Age group (years)	Yes			No		
	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	%	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Males						
Barwon-South Western	25.8	20.6	31.8	74.2	68.2	79.4
Eastern Metropolitan	21.9	19.2	24.8	77.9	74.9	80.6
Gippsland	27.3	23.5	31.5	72.7	68.5	76.5
Grampians	24.3	21.2	27.7	75.7	72.3	78.8
Hume	22.2	19.7	24.8	77.6	74.9	80.1
Loddon Mallee	26.7	23.4	30.3	73.2	69.7	76.5
North and West Metropolitan	15.9	14.3	17.6	84.0	82.3	85.6
Southern Metropolitan	20.3	18.1	22.7	79.4	77.0	81.6
Metropolitan	19.0	17.7	20.2	80.8	79.5	82.0
Rural	25.3	23.4	27.3	74.6	72.6	76.5
Total	20.6	19.6	21.6	79.2	78.2	80.3
Females						
Barwon-South Western	20.0	16.9	23.6	79.9	76.4	83.1
Eastern Metropolitan	17.9	15.9	20.1	81.9	79.7	83.9
Gippsland	20.0	17.8	22.4	79.8	77.4	82.0
Grampians	19.8	17.5	22.4	80.0	77.4	82.4
Hume	22.1	20.2	24.1	77.9	75.8	79.8
Loddon Mallee	21.5	19.3	23.9	78.5	76.1	80.7
North and West Metropolitan	13.3	12.1	14.5	86.5	85.2	87.6
Southern Metropolitan	16.3	14.8	18.0	83.5	81.9	85.1
Metropolitan	15.5	14.7	16.5	84.3	83.4	85.2
Rural	20.7	19.5	21.9	79.2	78.0	80.4
Total	16.9	16.2	17.7	82.9	82.2	83.7
Persons						
Barwon-South Western	22.8	19.7	26.3	77.1	73.6	80.3
Eastern Metropolitan	19.8	18.1	21.6	80.0	78.2	81.7
Gippsland	23.8	21.5	26.2	76.1	73.6	78.4
Grampians	21.9	19.9	24.0	78.0	75.9	80.0
Hume	22.2	20.6	23.9	77.7	76.0	79.3
Loddon Mallee	24.1	22.1	26.3	75.9	73.7	77.9
North and West Metropolitan	14.6	13.6	15.7	85.2	84.1	86.2
Southern Metropolitan	18.2	16.9	19.7	81.6	80.1	82.9
Metropolitan	17.2	16.4	18.0	82.6	81.8	83.4
Rural	23.0	21.8	24.2	76.9	75.8	78.1
Total	18.7	18.1	19.3	81.1	80.5	81.8

Metropolitan and rural regions are identified by colour as follows: metropolitan / rural.

95% CI = 95 per cent confidence interval.

Note that figures may not add to 100 per cent due to a proportion of 'don't know' or 'refused' responses.

Data are age standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different from the corresponding estimate for Victoria are identified by colour as follows: above Victoria / below Victoria.

Reference

AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2007, 'Indicators of social cohesion', *Australia's Welfare 2007*, cat. no. AUS 93, Canberra.

DPCD (Department of Planning and Community Development) 2010, *Indicators of community strength at the local government area level in Victoria 2008*, DPCD, Melbourne.

